

THE TIMES

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Paul McCartney's tribute concert to Linda page 20

Marathon INSIDE 16 page supplement special

Great weekend of Sport
Scott wins it for the Scots pages 27,34
Shearer takes Newcastle into FA Cup final pages 28,29

30p EVERY WEEKDAY

Allies strengthen forces on all fronts

Nato puts 600 planes into air war

BY MICHAEL EVANS, IAN BRODIE AND TOM WALKER

NATO reinforcements, adding another 90 aircraft and an extra carrier for the attacks on Yugoslavia, were unveiled yesterday as the latest evidence of the alliance governments' resolve to maintain a long-haul air campaign.

Although the number of troops deployed to Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia could also more than double in the next few weeks, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, reaffirmed that there would be no U-turn in Nato's policy to pursue the air campaign in preference to a ground offensive.

Sending in ground forces, he said, would cause casualties on both sides. However, he said Britain had troops on short notice to move to Macedonia to reinforce the 4,300 already there, and their possible deployment was "under daily review". He was referring to the 4,000-man Irish Guards battle group in Germany.

Underlining the growing concern about the fate of ethnic Albanians inside Kosovo, Mr Cook said he had been told that 400,000 people were now living in the woods and mountains, hiding from the Yugoslav forces.

He added that Hashim Thaci, the leading Kosovo Liberation Army figure who headed the Albanian delegation at the Rambouillet peace talks, had phoned him from Kosovo to back the air campaign. Mr Thaci had also described how people were hiding in terror in Kosovo, with little food and in bleak conditions. Snow had fallen that morning in the hills, Mr Cook said.

The extensive reinforcements, consisting of 82 more US aircraft and the Royal Navy aircraft carrier *HMS Invincible*, with seven Sea Harriers, accompanied by the destroyer *HMS Newcastle* and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary *Fort Austin*, were a "visible demonstration of our commitment to complete the job of forcing President Milosevic to reverse the ethnic cleansing of Kosovo", Mr Cook said.

The additional aircraft will bring Nato's air armada total to more than 600 planes.

Despite the continuing focus on air power, American officials confirmed that there were "standby" plans for the use of ground troops in Kosovo, but insisted an intensified air campaign would be sufficient to meet Nato's military objectives

David Leavy, for the US National Security Council, said Nato had done an assessment for ground forces in a hostile environment which could be updated quickly. He added: "There has not been a request for ground troops from the Nato commanders and President Clinton has no intention of introducing them, but that planning remains on the shelf if necessary."

The same message came from William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, who said that the idea of ground troops remained hypothetical, but the plans could be updated fairly quickly.

General Hugh Shelton, Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said there were various contingency plans drawn up last year with troops strengths ranging from 20,000 to 200,000.

However, speaking on BBC television, Mr Cook said: "A ground war would involve a lot more casualties than the air campaign on both sides. I think those who are, perhaps rather lightly, calling for ground troops should reflect whether they would still support it once the casualties started to mount."

Tony Blair also took up the theme in an article for *Newsweek* in which he said that the Government was right to be cautious about a ground offensive. The Prime Minister added: "Of course, ground forces will be necessary in Kosovo to give the refugees the confidence to return to their homes in safety. But that is very different from fighting our way in. While we keep all options under review at all times, that is not our plan."

He added: "A land invasion would be a massive undertaking and would take time to assemble. The casualties would potentially be large. And the civilian population would be at Milosevic's mercy."

However, Paskal Milo, the Albanian Foreign Minister, made it clear yesterday in a televised link-up to a press conference at the Ministry of Defence in London that his Government would support Nato using the country's territory and airspace for any action against the Yugoslav forces in Kosovo.

He said: "The Albanian Government is ready to accept other ground troops from Nato. We now have decided to give Nato the rights to control all our airspaces, ports and any other kind of military infrastructure in Albania."

Slavko Curuvija, a newspaper editor and one of Mr Milosevic's most outspoken critics, was shot dead yesterday, reviving speculation that he was a central figure in a planned coup against the Yugoslav President.

On a day when an air of tension spread over Belgrade, the embattled authorities diverted attention from the first chilling signs of desperation in the regime by showing the confession on state television of an Australian aid worker, who admitted to performing undercover intelligence tasks in Kosovo.

The spy charges against Steve Pratt, who faces up to 20 years in jail under Yugoslavia's marshal law rules, provided a welcome filip for Serbs on their Easter Sunday, the most important day in the Orthodox calendar.

Nato said that bombing was restrained yesterday partly in deference to the Orthodox Easter, but poor weather also played a part.

Yesterday the Pope expressed his fellow feeling for "our Orthodox brothers" in Yugoslavia.

In a special address, he said that a yearning for real peace was "pervading the world as this millennium draws to a close".

INSIDE


ROY RILEY

Cate Blanchett arriving for the Bafta awards where she was named best actress for her performance in the period piece *Elizabeth*. The film took five awards. Report, page 3

Tories poised to back elected Lords

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY chiefs will this week give the clearest signal yet that the party is on the brink of backing radical proposals for a directly elected House of Lords.

A commission set up by William Hague will conclude that a future second chamber must be at the very least predominantly elected. That is in stark contrast to the Government's apparent favoured option of a largely nominated second chamber with a small indirectly elected element.

The commission, chaired by the former Lord Chancellor Lord Mackay of Clashfern, is also expected to rule out any reduction of the upper house's powers to act as a check on the executive.

The Government gave a strong hint in its recent White Paper on the Lords that a reformed chamber should have its powers trimmed to avoid encroaching on the Commons' constitutional superiority.

Ministers fear that a second chamber with too much democratic legitimacy will repeatedly challenge the Commons and cause legislative gridlock.

According to senior Tory sources, the Mackay report, to be published on Friday, will put forward two broad options for a reformed House of Lords: either a predominantly or wholly elected upper chamber.

Although the Commission is technically non-prescriptive and does not tie Mr Hague's hands, it paves the way for the Tory leader to back a democratic upper house.

"[The new policy] may include 100 per cent of Mackay, or just part of it," one Shadow Cabinet member said. "But it would be very unlikely not to include any Mackay at all."

SPORT: THE WEEKEND'S BIG RESULTS

Rugby Union:
Scotland took the Five Nations' Championship after an injury-time try gave Wales a 32-31 victory over England. Scotland had beaten France 36-22 on Saturday.

Football:
Newcastle United booked their ticket to FA Cup Final, beating Tottenham Hotspur 2-0 in extra time. They must wait to learn who they will meet at Wembley on May 22. Manchester United and Arsenal drew their semi-final 0-0 after extra time and will replay on Wednesday.
The Old Firm will meet again in the Scottish Cup Final after Rangers beat St Johnstone 2-0. Celtic beat Dundee United by a similar margin on Saturday.

Motor-racing:
Mika Hakkinen repeated his success of last year to win the Brazilian Grand Prix for Maclaren. Michael Schumacher was second and Heinz-Harald Frentzen third.

Cricket:
England lost by nine runs in the one-day international against India at Sharjah, to be elmininated from the Coca Cola Cup.

Boxing:
Prince Naseem Hamed retained his WBO featherweight title when his fight against Paul Ingle was stopped in the eleventh round.

Horse-racing:
Bobbyjo, ridden by Paul Carberry, won the Grand National at 10-1, followed by Blue Charm (25-1), Call It A Day (7-1) and Addington Boy (10-1)

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Princess Margaret recovers after scalding feet in bath

BY ALAN HAMILTON

> 'Any serious burn to the feet, hands or face is considered of great medical importance and usually treated in hospital'
>
> — Dr Thomas Stuttaford, page 2

PRINCESS MARGARET is bedridden and receiving regular medical attention at Windsor Castle a month after burning her feet in a scalding bath while on holiday in the Caribbean, Buckingham Palace confirmed yesterday.

Fears for the health of the Queen's 68-year-old sister were renewed after the accident in the Princess's holiday home on the island of Mustique last month, but Palace officials stressed last night that there was no question of her life being in danger.

The Palace said that the Princess was "in good spirits", and had been told by her doctors to rest. "She is getting some nursing care, helping her change her dressings, and the burns are responding to treatment. She was seen by a local doctor in Mustique and came back to London a week after the accident. She is now recuperating at Windsor, but these things do take some time to heal," the Palace said.

Officials could not say whether the Princess would be well enough to attend the wedding of her nephew Prince Edward to Sophie Rhys-Jones at Windsor on June 19, but she is thought certain to cancel a planned appearance this week at the christening in London of a grandson of King Constantine of Greece, at which Prince William will become a godfather for the first time. The Princess has undertaken no official duties since February.

In February 1998 the Princess suffered a mild stroke while holidaying on Mustique and on her return to Britain spent longer than expected under observation in the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers in Central London.

Lady Glenconner, a close friend, who travelled with the Princess from Mustique last month, said the accident had happened when the Princess sat on the edge of a bath in her holiday home, Les Jolies Eaux. She had swivelled her legs into the bath, not realising it was full of scalding water.

The Princess's cries for help had at first gone unheeded, but she was eventually rescued by staff and examined by a local doctor. She felt well enough to remain on Mustique for another week.

"The Princess has been in bed for the past month following the accident; burns like that do not heal easily, especially as one gets older. However, she is well in herself," Lady Glenconner said. "I have spoken to her several times since, she is fine."

The Princess returned initially to her apartments at Kensington Palace, and felt well enough to join the Queen and other members of the Royal Family for their Easter break at Windsor. But she apparently underestimated the severity of her injuries, was unable to join in family gatherings and meals, and has remained in bed at the castle.

Doctors believe that the Princess's burns may be slow to heal because of her age and long addiction to cigarettes, which she is now said to have given up but which are likely to have caused permanent damage to her circulation.



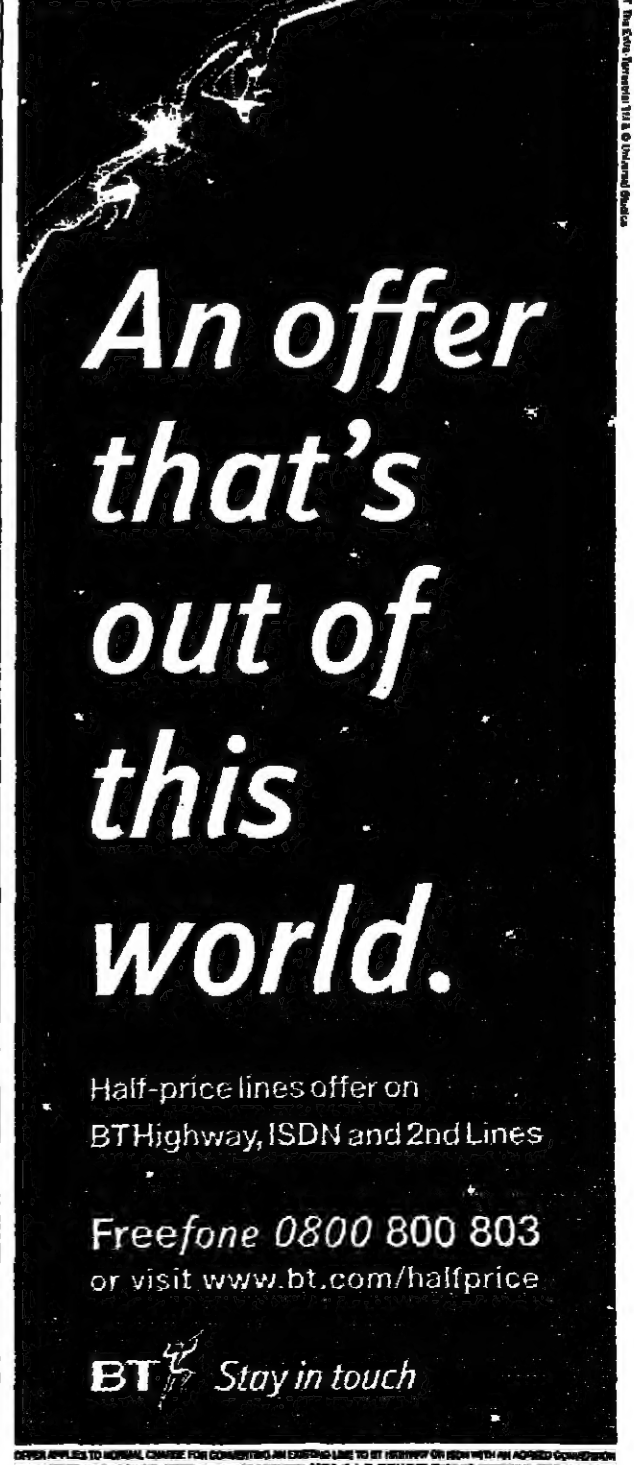
"Would you mind swapping blankets?"

Maxwells strike it rich

Robert Maxwell's twin daughters are among newcomers to the list of Britain's richest people. They are ranked 227th. The list is topped by Hans Rausing Pak with a fortune of £3.4 billion...15

Sophie dithers

Sophie Rhys-Jones is still trying to decide whether to promise to "obey" Prince Edward when they marry........ Page 11





Business moves in favour of euro in new poll

By James Landale, political correspondent

TWO THIRDS of medium-sized businesses are in favour of joining the euro, according to a new survey. The findings will give a lift to Tony Blair's campaign to win support for the single currency.

Sixty-five per cent of 200 managing directors representing firms with turnovers of between £1 million and £100 million said that Britain should join. The survey, carried out by Lloyds TSB bank, also showed that 86 per cent of the firms questioned believed that Britain would eventually do so.

The polling was conducted in February, most of it after the Government's announcement of a national changeover plan to prepare business for potential membership. The results, published today, are in stark contrast to a recent poll by Business for Sterling, the anti-euro lobby group, which suggested that two thirds of businesses were opposed to the single currency. However, it later emerged that the poll overemphasised the traditionally anti-euro views of smaller business owners.

In reality, business is effectively split on the euro, with broadly more against than in favour. Michael Portillo, the former Conservative Cabinet minister, told GMTV yesterday: "All parties and all business are torn asunder on this issue." However, he added that most businesses in Britain were small firms and were "very clearly against it".

Mr Portillo gave a warning that continental politicians backed the euro as "the foundation to the creation of a new European state". He added: "There are clearly huge political and constitutional implications in this."

The Lloyds TSB survey showed that businesses now feel more informed about the euro. Some 52 per cent said they no longer required any further information, an increase from 35 per cent last November.

The research also showed that 20 per cent of the firms that trade with Europe were being invoiced in euros by overseas suppliers. Some 12 per cent were being paid in euros by foreign buyers.

Michael Riding, managing director of Lloyds Bank commercial service, said: "It is very encouraging that despite the relatively small number of firms actually using the euro, businesses across the board now feel better informed than this time four months ago."

He said the fear felt by many firms towards the euro was disappearing. "The work done by banks and government to educate businesses means many firms are now displaying a sound understanding of the issues presented by the euro. This means industry will be able to make a more informed decision about the UK entering EMU when the Government holds its referendum."

The results are published as both sides in the euro debate step up their campaigning. The Britain in Europe lobby group launched a new publicity offensive to warn that consumers would be hit by higher mortgages and prices if Britain stayed out of the euro.

Lord Marshall, the British Airways chief who heads the group, said: "The facts are that the single currency has now been successfully launched and Britain is losing out because we are staying out."

Eurosceptics such as Lord Shore of Stepney, the former Labour Cabiner Minister, hit back. At a conference for the Campaign for an Independent Britain, he insisted that joining the euro would lead to higher taxes and unemployment.



Portillo: "all parties are torn asunder on this issue"

MAGNI MASONS



Princess Margaret: even a fit woman half her age would have found that serious burns to the feet take a long time to heal

Age and health against Princess

MEDICAL BRIEFING

IT IS no surprise that Princess Margaret's foot burns may not have healed in time for Prince Edward's marriage to Sophie Rhys-Jones; even if she was half her age they would have been unlikely to have recovered in time.

If Princess Margaret was in the best of health, had an excellent medical history, hadn't smoked excessively, and was under 60, the damage done by placing her feet in scalding water would constitute a serious burn. The average patient, without the Princess's access to first-class home medical care, would have been admitted to hospital.

Because of the history of a stroke any extensive burn will have been taken more seriously than it would have been in an otherwise fit person. Healthy patients who burn more than 10 per cent of their skin area are routinely admitted to hospital. Burns to the whole of both feet would constitute more than 4 per cent of the body's skin area, but if she placed her feet in a bath of hot water it is likely that some of the lower legs were also involved, a burn of half of both the lower legs adds another 6½ per cent. Life is not usually thr eatened until 40 per cent of the body area is damaged, but this rule cannot always be applied to those over 60, in whom other factors have to be taken into consideration.

Any serious burn to the feet, hands, face or genitalia is considered of great medical importance and usually treated in hospital, as the consequences of any infection and the sensitivity of the area cause much greater disability than a similar area burn on, for instance, the back.

Princess Margaret's case presents problems that are frequently encountered. After a stroke many patients experience changes in mobility, loss of joint co-ordination, skin sensitivity and frequently a lowered reaction time, all of which may predispose to household accidents, including burns. Unfortunately, recovery from an injury is less good in these patients. Regrettably, too, there is no part of the human body that recovers more slowly to injuries than the lower leg which has a comparatively poor blood supply. Even a fit rugby international notices that injuries to the lower leg take an age to heal.

Another disadvantage that Princess Margaret has to overcome is that she has been a heavy smoker, and one of the complications of heavy smoking is that the peripheral arteries are narrowed and clogged, which restricts the blood supply to the skin and further retards its recovery.

Although the Princess is inevitably relatively immobile every effort will be made by her doctors and physiotherapists to encourage exercises which will stimulate her circulation. After a burn, and immobilisation, there's always a risk of a thrombus forming in the deep veins of the leg with a subsequent hazard of pulmonary emboli.

The initial treatment of burns is usually intravenous infusion to prevent constriction of the blood vessels of the skin and correction of any chemical imbalance. This is followed by dressings, antibiotics to prevent infection, and painkillers and anti-inflammatory drugs to treat discomfort. As soon as the Princess's burns allow it, walking will be recommended.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Bush backs Pinochet freedom campaign

By James Landale

GEORGE BUSH, the former US President, has joined the growing number of international figures calling for General Augusto Pinochet to be allowed to return to Chile.

He described the case against the former Chilean dictator as a "travesty of justice" and demanded a "quick resolution" to the proceedings.

Mr Bush's remarks came in a letter to Lord Lamont of Lerwick, the former Tory Chancellor, who is campaigning for General Pinochet's release. In the letter, dated April 8, Mr Bush said: "General Pinochet should be returned to Chile as soon as possible."

Mr Bush joins Henry Kissinger, Baroness Thatcher and the Vatican in calling for the general's release. Also backing him is the Solidarity movement in Poland.

General Pinochet is held under house arrest in Wentworth, Surrey. He was arrested last October after a Spanish judge issued an extradition warrant relating to crimes allegedly committed during his 1973-1990 regime in Chile.

The law lords ruled recently that he had no immunity from prosecution. They also said he could face only those charges relating to alleged crimes after December 1988. This cut the number of draft charges from 33 to three.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is expected to rule shortly whether or not the 83-year-old general should be extradited to Spain to face those remaining charges of torture and conspiracy to torture.

Hague gets an image polish for local votes

By James Landale, political correspondent

TORY strategists will launch a campaign this week to revamp William Hague's image as a down-to-earth man of the people, as the party gears up for next month's local elections.

Party officials said it was vital the public saw more of the Tory leader so they could see he was a "regular guy with a human side". The move — which will involve Mr Hague spending more time campaigning out of London — is intended to dispel the more common image of him as a "one-dimensional political hack".

Conservative sources denied it represented yet another relaunch for the the party leader; it was just a "reprojection" of his image so voters could see "the real William Hague". The move is part of the Tories' strategy for the May 6 council elections to position themselves as the champions of local people and issues against the heavy hand of the state.

Michael Ancram, the Tory chairman, said it was always difficult for an opposition leader to get himself seen or heard and he admitted that Mr Hague had not been noticed enough. He told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*: "We want to get him out and around and use the elections ... in a way which is more visible than the way he has being doing since becoming leader, but in the absence of elections, perhaps not being noticed as widely as he should be."

The plan, masterminded by Amanda Platell, the party's new director of communications, will see Mr Hague give more interviews with glossy magazines rather than just with Westminster-based journalists. He will cooperate with a fly-on-the-wall documentary being made by Michael Cockerell.

He will visit more schools, wear more casual clothes, emphasising his working class background and the fact that he attended a comprehensive school. The plan fits with the so-called "kitchen table" strategy of relating to ordinary people and the issues which matter to them.

One Tory source said: "It is not a relaunch. It is a development of ways of bringing him to a different audience and portraying the warm, human side to him. He has this reputation as a political boffin, perhaps as a result of his speech to conference as a teenager. But that is not what he is like. We have got to get the message across that he is not like that, and that he is a regular guy."

The local elections on May 6 will be a vital first test of the new Tory strategy. The party is to contest a record 8,411 council seats — 78 per cent of the 10,801 seats in the election.

Tory officials are already playing down expectations and suggest that Labour will do better as a result of Tony Blair's leadership during the Kosovo war. They now expect to gain fewer than 400 seats.

Labour sources dismissed the new Tory approach. They said that the Tories were learning the wrong lessons from Labour's renaissance under Mr Blair.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Team of sceptics to judge gene crops

A dramatic shake-up in the committee that approves releases of genetically engineered crops into the countryside was announced by the Government yesterday. It follows criticism by green groups, food organisations and some academics that the committee, the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment, is biased in favour of the biotechnology industry and has been nodding through applications without sufficient sceptical scrutiny.

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, said yesterday that a new committee composed of a more sceptical membership would be up and running by June. He said: "Scientific opinion on genetically modified organisms is split and the new committee will reflect this." The committee was also to be given wide-ranging responsibilities.

Critics have claimed that the way the committee has approved gene-modified crops has been on a basis that is too narrow. It is hoped this new remit will allay fears among government wildlife advisers and environmentalists.

Yard seeks TV tapes

Scotland Yard, invoking the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, will ask a judge at the Old Bailey to order Granada TV to hand over material from interviews with the five suspects in the Stephen Lawrence murder case. Weeks ago the Yard had begun an application for the material and then agreed to suspend the application until after the interview by Martin Bashir was shown. Police are expected to seek both used and unused footage.

Church ad criticised

A church advertisement that claimed a disabled man racked with pain had been cured within two hours by the power of Jesus has fallen foul of the Advertising Standards Authority. The advert for Peniel Pentecostal Church in Brentwood, Essex, which was placed in regional newspapers, breached the authority's guidelines because the church could not substantiate its claim that the man's miraculous recovery could be attributed to spiritual healing.

Lorry drivers' protest

Thousands of lorry drivers are expected to cause traffic jams in cities throughout the country today in a campaign to force the Government to reconsider tax rises that they claim will cost thousands of jobs. The protests, which follow similar action in London last month, will be held in Edinburgh, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Middlesbrough, Exeter and Plymouth, as well as in the capital. Manchester is expected to be the worst affected.

Pipe-bomb victim

A man was injured in a pipe-bomb attack on a bar in Northern Ireland. The blast happened shortly after 10am at the Barley Corn pub in Nutts Corner, Co Antrim. The man, in his 30s, was taken to hospital with leg and chest injuries but his condition was not believed to be life-threatening. Suspicion fell immediately on dissident loyalists, who have carried out a series of similar attacks on homes and businesses during the past few months.

Pink, 35, and still cool



The Pink Panther, the cartoon world's ultimate symbol of wit and nonchalance — and occasional wild panic — celebrated his 35th birthday at the weekend. To mark the occasion MGM is to "redefine" the character, but a spokesman said: "He will remain the definition of cool. We have given the Pink Panther a new look. We have searched through the history of the character and have merged his original cool with resurging trends from various eras." The Pink Panther's first short, *The Pink Phink*, won an Academy Award in 1964.

Small lottery winners

A scheme that will make it easier for small community groups to apply for National Lottery grants was launched by Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary. The Awards for All will provide up to £5,000 to small non-profitmaking groups and, during its first year, will help groups planning millennium celebration projects with £35 million going towards small-scale art, charitable, sporting, and heritage activities. Applicants will not have to raise matching funds.

Police killing inquiry

The man shot dead by police in Falmouth, Cornwall, was an ex-soldier who had previously been jailed for firing an imitation weapon at police in a similar incident. Antony Kitts, 20, was sentenced to youth custody for two years in 1997 for the shooting and an attack on his stepfather. At the time the trial judge at Truro Crown Court questioned why he had been recruited by the Army and said he could be very dangerous. An investigation into his death has begun.

Ramblers' plea on law

The Ramblers' Association has welcomed the Government's proposed new laws granting the "right to roam" and urged Parliament to introduce them as quickly as possible. Delegates at the association's national conference in Nottingham voted unanimously for the policy to be included in the Queen's Speech at the start of the next parliamentary session in November. The chairman, David Grosz, said the Government had shown that it listened to people.

Frame and fortune

Tracey Simpkin has won double glazing worth £4,000 by forcing a company to honour a bet made by its salesman that she could not remove the beading from one of his demonstration windows. Mrs Simkin, 33, from Derby, was given the challenge after the salesman rejected her claim that burglars could break in by prising off the external plastic. The salesman, for Coldseal, said she could have her doors and windows free if she could do it.

Bafta loves Bess more than Will

Elizabethan film rivalry is rekindled at British awards, reports Carol Midgley

IN A display of the revenge that was such a popular feature of the Elizabethan theatre, the Australian actress Cate Blanchett beat Gwyneth Paltrow to the Best Actress award at the 51st British Academy Awards last night.

Miss Blanchett won the award for her portrayal of Elizabeth I in the British movie *Elizabeth*, while Miss Paltrow, who wept as she accepted her Oscar award for Best Actress for her role in *Shakespeare in Love* last month, went home empty-handed. Elizabeth I emerged as the main winner at the awards as the film world continued its love affair with 16th century England.

Dame Judi Dench compounded her Oscars triumph by winning the Best Supporting Actress award for her eight-minute performance of the older Queen Elizabeth in *Shakespeare in Love*.

The two films dominated the awards ceremony. *Shakespeare in Love* won four awards, including Best Film, while *Elizabeth* won five, including Most Outstanding British Film of the Year.

Another Elizabeth, Elizabeth Taylor, was given the top award of the evening, the Academy Fellowship for her lifetime's achievement in cinema.

There was more celebration for Roberto Begnini, who won the Best Actor award for his performance in the Holocaust film *La Vita e Bella*. Last month, when he won an Oscar for the role, he kissed the feet of Martin Scorcese. The Best Supporting Actor award went to Geoffrey Rush, who played an Elizabethan producer in *Shakespeare in Love*.

There was further disappointment for Michael Caine, who had been ignored in the Oscar nominations. Although he was nominated for Best Actor for his portrayal of a sleazy showbusiness agent in *Little Voice*, he missed out again.

Peter Weir was named Best Director for *The Truman Show*, the American film which also won Best Original Screenplay. *Primary Colors*, regarded as based on President Clinton and his wife Hillary, won Best Adapted Screenplay.

Elizabeth won three further awards, for Best Music, Best Cinematography and Best Makeup and Hair, while David Gamble picked up a further award for *Shakespeare in Love* for Best Editing.

The organisers of Bafta had made an effort to make this year's ceremony more glamorous than previous events in an attempt to raise its profile as the British Oscars. Guests walked up a red-carpeted promenade as the public watched outside the British Design Centre in Islington, North London It was thought that the vista would be more television-friendly than the usual view at the rear of the Grosvenor House Hotel in Park Lane where the event has been held previously.

The soccer star Vinnie Jones arrived with his wife to celebrate *Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*, the film in which he starred, winning the Orange Audience award. *Saving Private Ryan*, directed by Steven Spielberg, had a disappointing evening. Despite many nominations, it won only two awards, Best Sound and Best Special Effects.


Gwyneth Paltrow waltzed off with an Oscar but missed out on personal glory at the Baftas for her starring role in *Shakespeare in Love*

AND THE WINNERS ARE . . .

Best Film — **Shakespeare in Love**
The David Lean Award for best achievement in direction — **Peter Weir (The Truman Show)**
Best Screenplay (original) — **The Truman Show (Andrew Niccol)**
Best Screenplay (adapted) — **Primary Colors (Elaine May)**
Best Actress — **Cate Blanchett (Elizabeth)**
Best Actor — **Roberto Benigni (La Vita e Bella)**
Best Supporting Actress — **Dame Judi Dench (Shakespeare in Love)**
Best Supporting Actor — **Geoffrey Rush (Shakespeare in Love)**
Best Film not in English — **Central Do Brasil**
The Anthony Asquith Award for achievement in film music — **Elizabeth (David Hirschfelder)**
The Carl Foreman Award for newcomer in British film — **Richard Kwietniowski**
Best Cinematography — **Elizabeth (Remi Adefarasin)**
Best Production Design — **The Truman Show (Dennis Gassner)**
Best Costume Design — **Velvet Goldmine (Sandy Powell)**
Best Editing — **Shakespeare in Love (David Gamble)**
Best Sound — **Saving Private Ryan**
Best Special Effects — **Saving Private Ryan**
Best Make-up/Hair — **Elizabeth (Jenny Shircore)**
Best Short Film — **Home**
Best Short Animated Film — **The Canterbury Tales**
The Orange Audience Award — **Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels**
The Academy Fellowship — **Elizabeth Taylor**
The Michael Balcon Award for outstanding British contribution to cinema — **Michael Kuhn**
The Alexander Korda Award for outstanding British film — **Elizabeth**

Elizabethan drama of cinema rivals



James Christopher, the Times film critic, found last night's awards were not so much a competition as a blood bath

THE moment Shekhar Kapur's film *Elizabeth* and John Madden's *Shakespeare in Love* were nominated for this year's top movie awards, there was never going to be anything but an unhealthy sense of rivalry between them.

At the Oscars last month, one of the morbid sideshows was betting on which of the two ostensibly British films, featuring the character of Elizabeth I, would pick up the more glamorous statuettes. Or whether they would contrive to cancel each other out. In the event, it wasn't so much a competition as a blood-bath. Madden's *Shakespeare in Love* slaughtered all comers, and comprehensively humiliated the awardless *Elizabeth* (a Make-Up award hardly counts).

There was some compensation for poor Shekhar Kapur and his cohorts at the Baftas last night when *Elizabeth* dramatically picked off five awards against *Shakespeare in Love's* four. But Kapur's sense of vindication must be tempered by the fact that the top award — Best Film — went to his rival, while *Elizabeth* has had to make do with the significantly lesser award for Outstanding British Film. The sweetest moment was almost certainly enjoyed by Cate Blanchett, who played the title role in *Elizabeth*. She won the Best Actress award when the massed ranks of celebrities where putting their umbrellas up in expectation of yet another watery acceptance speech by red hot favourite Gwyneth Paltrow.

Both *Elizabeth* and *Shakespeare in Love* clearly deserved their awards. The rivalry has been something of a farce. They work on such entirely different levels that comparisons are at best unhelpful, at worst, damaging.

What the Baftas have implicitly acknowledged last night is the art-house ambitions of Kapur's vertiginous conspiracy movie. Full of baroque angles and festering melodrama, the film is a fascinating exploration of the psychological power-play in Elizabeth I's court.

The Oscars favoured *Shakespeare in Love* simply because it is a cracking commercial comedy with one of the wittiest scripts of the decade. You expect nothing less from a combination such as Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard.

Academy chief to sue for unfair dismissal

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

AS THE Bafta awards were being handed out last night, the former chief executive of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts was planning a case of unfair dismissal and breach of contract against it. Jane Clarke is expected to allege cronyism and failure to maximise money from sponsorship.

Miss Clarke joined the academy last year, on a salary of £70,000, from her job as deputy director of the British Film Institute. Her brief was to modernise an organisation accused of being an "old boy network", providing perks for senior members alongside its job of promoting excellence in British film and television.

At the end of the year, Miss Clarke, 47, was dismissed from re-entering the Bafta building. A statement was issued saying that her contract had been terminated by "a unanimous decision of the board". Miss Clarke has instigated employment tribunal proceedings. She will tell the tribunal that it was made to look as if she had been guilty of gross misconduct. She will allege that after her departure her personal mail was opened.


Clarke: dismissed "by a unanimous decision"

She has told friends that she believes one factor involved in her dismissal was the unpopularity caused by her discovery that quantities of wine were disappearing from Bafta's headquarters in Piccadilly.

Miss Clarke alleges that her dismissal came soon after she drew to the attention of the chairman, the film and television costumier Tim Angel, her belief that the organisation had not been maximising the money it could have raised from sponsorship of awards such as last night's.

Mr Angel declined to comment, other than to say that Miss Clarke's action would be vigorously defended.

BALKANS WAR: NATO UNITY

Blair sees new world order in Kosovo conflict

By James Landale
Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR today calls for a "new internationalism" in which the world community never again tolerates the brutal repression of an ethnic group by a dictator struggling to remain in power.

In an article for *Newsweek* magazine, the Prime Minister suggests that Nato's action in Kosovo could be a model for future international relations.

Mr Blair says: "This is a conflict we are fighting not for territory but for values, for a new internationalism where the brutal repression of whole ethnic groups will no longer be tolerated, for a world where those responsible for such crimes have nowhere to hide."

He adds: "We are fighting for a world where dictators are no longer able to visit horrific punishments on their own peoples in order to stay in power."

Establishing the principle that outside countries can intervene in a sovereign state to halt "ethnic cleansing" would mark a radical shift in the basic norms of international relations and Mr Blair's remarks will provoke unease among many countries. Some Western diplomats are privately concerned at the consequences of Nato's pro-active stance and emphasise that the aggressive action in Kosovo is a unique situation.

Mr Blair also uses the article to mount a strong defence of Nato's airstrikes against Kosovo. He acknowledged there would be "the usual barrage of criticism" for the action. But the West had learned from "bitter experience" 60 years ago not to appease dictators such as President Milosevic.

Defending the airstrikes, Mr Blair insists the Government was right to be "cautious" about a ground offensive. "Of course ground forces will be necessary in Kosovo to give the refugees the confidence to return to their homes in safety," he says. "But that is very different from fighting our way in. While we keep all options under review . . . that is not our plan. A land invasion would be a massive undertaking and would take time to assemble. The casualties would potentially be large. And the civilian population would be at Milosevic's mercy." Mr Blair, who is expected to address MPs tomorrow when the Commons returns from its Easter break, said Nato would continue attacking until it succeeded, and insisted the airstrikes were "taking their toll" on the Yugoslav Army.

More than 2,000 anti-bombing protesters gathered in Trafalgar Square in central London yesterday to demonstrate against the Nato airstrikes. Several left-wing Labour MPs including Tony Benn, joined the protest which was organised by the Committee for Peace in the Balkans.

Mr Benn said: "We are saying, stop the bombing now. And we are saying that all money and effort now devoted to war should be diverted to the enormous humanitarian problems that not only concern the people of Kosovo, but the people of Yugoslavia who are being bombed."

PAPAL PLEA

Rome: Amid growing anti-war feeling in Italy, the Pope yesterday used an address marking the Orthodox Easter to express fellow feeling for "our Orthodox brothers" in Yugoslavia (Richard Owen writes). "Let the guns fall silent, let dialogue resume," he said.



Tony Benn at the Trafalgar Square rally yesterday organised by the Committee for Peace in the Balkans to oppose the Nato bombing campaign

Germans fear Schröder is America's tool

How much longer will the Germans put up with the war? The easy answer is that Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, is in the war, for better or for worse, and is determined to show himself as good an ally as Britain.

Public opinion is still on his side — 57 per cent of Germans support a continuation of the airstrikes until President Milosevic stops all military action in Kosovo.

Yet alliances are dynamic and in war — despite the obligatory pretence of unity — the terms are being constantly renegotiated. Both France and Germany are unhappy about America's control of intelligence collected by satellites.

Nato quickly denied reports from Washington that France was being cut out of an information loop for fear that intelligence would get back to the Serbs. Not unnaturally, the French were deeply offended at the suggestion.

The nervousness over US intelligence policy is also felt by the Germans. Certainly the Chancellor's office was upset that it had no idea about the fate of 30,000 refugees who disappeared after arriving at the border even though US satellites could have kept them in the picture.

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

"There is a degree of dissatisfaction," admits Walter Stützle, the junior Defence Minister. His boss, Rudolf Scharping, emphasises that Nato should be "more open and more offensive", meaning that the United States should not keep secrets from its allies.

The Germans are going to deploy a second battery of unmanned drones which could provide some tactical information but they are no substitute for the panorama provided by satellites. An old, expensive idea, for a joint Franco-German satellite system, may be revived but it will come too late for this war.

The underlying fear is that America is beginning to fight a separate war. There is probably nothing in it but the mere whisper of abandonment is enough to sap the authority of the Chancellor who has yet to earn his spurs as an international statesman.

Today he faces his first open challenge on Kosovo when he stands for election as chairman of the Social Democratic Party. He is supposed to fill the gap left so strangely and so suddenly by the resignation of Oskar Lafontaine, his former Finance Minister.

As far as Germany is concerned, it is now very much Oskar Who? But the Social Democratic Party conference still aches for him, for his left-wing certainties and his rhetorical passion. The party does not love or even much like Herr Schröder. They will vote for him today, but in the manner of dutiful children taking tea with a maiden aunt: it is something that they have to do.

First, however, they will give him an earful on Kosovo, which the party regards as an illegal war. Such is the strength of feeling that some 30 per cent of the delegates are threatening to abstain from the vote for Herr Schröder.

Party delegates want guarantees of parliamentary approval before any fresh military steps are taken: they will demand (and receive) a pledge that ground troops will not be used before a peace treaty is in place and they will want reassurances that there is a way of ending the war on sensible terms.

The pacifists in the party do not have a strong champion now that Herr Lafontaine has taken early retirement and they are in no position to dictate terms. But if Herr Schröder really wants to be party leader as well as Chancellor than he will have to incorporate some of the party's scepticism about the war into his politics: that is the price of their support.

The premise that war consolidates the power of domestic leaders is shaky. Naturally, war boosts the profile of defence ministers — Herr Scharping has become, in effect, the second-most important figure in the Government and in the party — and of foreign ministers.

But the Chancellor's approval rating has slipped 11 per cent since the beginning of this month. Only 50 per cent of Germans believe that he is doing a good job. The Chancellor looks as if he is in command but increasingly Germans think that he is taking orders from Washington.

When Helmut Kohl, his predecessor, was in power he always created the illusion that he was consulting with US Presidents on an equal basis. War reveals the true distribution of power within an alliance and it has already become plain that Herr Schröder is not high on the list of President Clinton's priority calls. This could prove dangerous.

The deepest anxiety of Germans is that the United States will lead them, against their will, into a conflict with Russia. That was the trigger for the anti-American protests of the 1980s.

If the Kosovo war continues without result — that is if Mr Milosevic sits firm, if his police units continue to terrorise and slice up Kosovo — then something similar could happen again.

THE NATO ARMADA FACING MILOSEVIC

Up to 90 extra aircraft and more than 10,000 troops

US – MORE THAN 500 AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING:

2 B2s (based in the US)
5 B1Bs (based in the UK)
11 B52s
23 F117s
F15Es
F16s
10 A10s
AH64A Apache

ON THE WAY: 82 aircraft, including 24 F16s, 4 A10s and 6 EA6B Prowlers, plus 24 Apache attack helicopters and 26 support helicopters

BRITISH AIRCRAFT

8 Tornado GR1s
12 Harrier GR7s
ON THE WAY: 7 Sea Harriers on HMS Invincible

Nato airbases

OTHER NATO AIRCRAFT

FRANCE: 26 + 18 on the Foch
ITALY: 42
NETHERLANDS: 18
GERMANY: 14
CANADA: 6
BELGIUM: 12
DENMARK: 6
PORTUGAL: 3
TURKEY: 11
NORWAY: 6
SPAIN: 4

Vicenza
Aviano
SLOVENIA
Ancona
ITALY
Naples
CROATIA
Split
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
HUNGARY
Belgrade
MONTENEGRO
SERBIA
ALBANIA
Pristina
KOSOVO
Skopje
Former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA
ROMANIA
BULGARIA
G R E E C E

US 6TH FLEET

Aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt with 75 aircraft plus 8 surface ships and 3 submarines all armed with cruise missiles

FRENCH FLEET

Aircraft carrier Foch with 18 Super Etendards

BRITISH FLEET

Nuclear submarine HMS Splendid armed with cruise missiles, frigate HMS Iron Duke. *ON THE WAY:* HMS Invincible and a destroyer

GROUND TROOPS IN MACEDONIA

12,000 British, Dutch, German and French troops
READY IF NEEDED: 4,000 British troops in Germany

GROUND TROOPS IN ALBANIA

8,000 Nato troops en route to Albania for refugee relief

2,600 US troops to support Apaches, 18 Multiple Launch Rocket Systems, plus 14 Bradley fighting vehicles and 10 Abrams tanks en route to Albania

Nato shows its hand as it raises air war stakes

It is clear the West still has no plan to invade Kosovo, writes Michael Evans

IF PRESIDENT Milosevic *harboured any suspicions that* Nato was planning a ground war by sending in troops in penny packets to produce a putative invasion force, the latest announcements from London and Washington will have *reassured him.*

All the effort is still being focused on air power, with the United States sending an additional 82 aircraft to Italy and Britain sending the aircraft carrier *HMS Invincible*, with *her seven Sea Harriers, to the* Ionian Sea. This will boost Nato's Operation Allied Force firepower to more than 600 planes in five countries: the US, Britain, Italy, Germany and France.

By contrast, the "troop power" remains at a relatively in*significant* level. There are now 12,000 Nato troops in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia of whom 4,300 are British. Another 4,000 British troops are in Germany ready at short notice to join them, which would bring the total British contribution to about 8,000. There will also soon be 8,000 mixed Nato soldiers and 2,600 US support troops for the proposed *deployment in* Albania of 24 Apache attack helicopters and 18 Multiple Launch Rocket Systems.

However, even if the British reinforcements are sent, the total number of Nato troops in Macedonia *and Albania* will be only 26,600, of whom about a third are being deployed for a strictly humanitarian mission. The Yugoslav Army has 40,000 troops in Kosovo and 300 tanks.

The 8,000 allocated for refugee relief in Albania, the operation codenamed Allied Harbour, will not be suitably *equipped for an intervention* role in Kosovo. They will have light artillery, mortars and lorries, but no tanks, self-propelled artillery or armoured combat vehicles.

Defence sources said that the way the troop deployments had been configured meant that Operation Allied Harbour was a totally separate mission, unrelated *to* Operation Allied Force. Although it *would be possible to make use* of the 8,000 soldiers at some future date in Kosovo, when there was a peace to keep, they could not be converted into an invasion brigade for an opposed *land* campaign.

If, however, the Government decides to send the 4,000 extra British troops from Germany to Macedonia, that would at least enable Britain's 4 Armoured Brigade to train *together with its two battle* groups, based around the King's Royal Hussars and the Irish Guards. Now, with the King's Royal Hussars battle group in Macedonia and the Irish Guards battle group in *Germany, there is no opportunity* for cohesive training.

Even without a peace-implementation mission in prospect, it would make sense for Britain's armoured brigade to be formed up in the same *place*, at least looking as if it means business instead of its elements being separated by 1,000 miles. Before the Rambouillet peace talks became history, 4 Armoured *Brigade* was chosen to fulfil Operation Agricola, the proposed Kosovo peace implementation mission. The number of tanks assigned to the brigade, again, is strictly limited to a peacekeeping role.

For those clamouring for a *ground offensive, it may* be tempting to imagine that Nato is even now building up a force by stealth and that all the component parts, scattered around Macedonia, Albania, Germany and at the Greek port of Salonika will suddenly converge into the 100,000-man intervention force that the politicians have been saying *would be needed to take on the* Yugoslav Army in Kosovo.

However, if there were a serious move towards a land campaign, the evidence would be there for all to see: the dispatching of hundreds of tanks and artillery pieces, the designation of thousands of Nato troops for a war, and the de*ployment to Macedonia of a* combat engineering force to deal with the landmines being laid along the Kosovo border by Yugoslav troops.

Although it was unquestionably the biggest *military* and *political mistake of the* campaign to let President Milosevic know from the beginning that Nato had no intention of mounting a ground offensive in Kosovo — after all, the golden rule is that you never let the enemy know what your options are — alliance governments have remained true to their word.

Every day they rule out a ground war, although sometimes they come up with different *reasons*.

Yesterday, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, gave as one of the main reasons that a land war would lead to serious casualties on both sides. Another reason often given is that it *would take two or three* months to assemble a ground force of at least 100,000 troops and that by then Mr Milosevic will have completed his dirty work.

The commitment, therefore, is to air power, and to use ground troops only to implement a peace settlement. With that priority apparently approved by all 19 Nato member *states, the additional* firepower now being sent to the region should ensure a round-the-clock bombing capability, subject only to the weather.

Of the 82 extra aircraft being sent by the Americans, there will be *24 more* F16s, armed with Harm anti-radar missiles, *four* A10 Thunderbolt tank-busting "Warthogs" and six radar-jamming EA6B Prowlers as well as additional air-refuelling tankers and transport aircraft.

The increase in the number of Prowlers being sent to the region, adding to the 18 al*ready there, underlines the* sombre fact that after nearly *three weeks of bombing*, the Yugoslav air defence systems are still running effectively, even at half strength. Nato has claimed only that it has damaged about half of the air defence radars and destroyed only half of Yugoslavia's potent MiG29s.



Gunmen kill leading Milosevic critic

Editor is shot dead on day that aid worker 'confesses' to spying charge, reports Tom Walker in Belgrade

ONE of President Milosevic's most outspoken critics, Slayko Curuvija, a prominent newspaper editor, was shot dead yesterday, reviving speculation that he was a central figure in a planned coup.

On a day when an air of tension spread over Belgrade, the embattled authorities diverted attention from the first chilling signs of desperation in the regime by showing the confession on state television of an Australian aid worker, who apparently admitted performing undercover intelligence tasks in Kosovo.

The spy charges against Steve Pratt, who faces up to 20 years in jail under Yugoslavia's martial law, provided a welcome fillip for Serbs on their Easter Day, the most important day in the Orthodox calendar.

A sense of national injustice was heightened by state media reports that six civilians, including a one-year-old girl and her father, had been killed by a Nato missile in northern Kosovo.

The cold-blooded murder of Mr Curuvija, however, sent fear racing through the dwindling numbers of independent journalists left in Belgrade.

Witnesses said that at least two gunmen shot Mr Curuvija in the back of the head as he walked through a secluded courtyard towards his block of flats in the late afternoon. His partner, Branka Prpa, was struck over the head but recovered and raised the alarm.

His newspaper, *Dnevni Telegraf*, was banned briefly last October after it was accused of raising panic during the first threatened air raids against Belgrade. He was then heavily fined for an article in a sister publication, *The European*, that was critical of Mr Milosevic's decade in power. He faced a prison sentence of five months, but was freed pending appeal.

Mr Curuvija was once a close associate of Mr Milosevic's wife, Mira Markovic, and also had good connections within the secret police network. The rumours of his involvement in a coup plot stemmed from his friendship with Mr Milosevic's former head of security, Jovica Stanisic, who was dismissed by Mr Milosevic in late October.

Various human rights groups, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, were concerned for Mr Curuvija's safety. *The European* article appeared a week before Mr Stanisic's departure. It was regarded as the most virulent and detailed attack yet made on Mr Milosevic, and many commentators at the time said Mr Curuvija would not have dared publish it without backers in high places. His prison sentence stemmed from another story, concerning the murder of a doctor and the activities of Milovan Bojic, the Deputy Prime Minister, that was published this year by *Dnevni Telegraf*.

For his part, Mr Pratt, who delivered his televised confession in a dull monotone, bore no obvious signs of beatings, but he was slumped in his chair and looked tired and drained of emotion.

He sat by a high table, on which a small placard described him as "Major Steve Pratt", his former title in the Australian Army.

He had been arrested while trying to cross into Croatia 11 days ago with a younger colleague, Peter Wallace. Both men worked for CARE Australia, one of the most established non-governmental organisations in Yugoslavia, and one that has built up a relatively good relationship with the authorities thanks to its work with Serbian refugees from Croatia and Bosnia.

The men had been based in Kosovo. With the permission of the Ministry for Refugees, they were on their way to Montenegro. Chris Lamb, the Australian Ambassador to Belgrade, had spent two days camped on the Creatian border attempting to get back into Yugoslavia in a frantic search for his subjects, but when he finally crossed on Friday he could find no trace of them.

Alexander Downer, Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister, last week made a formal complaint to the Yugoslav authorities, who eventually admitted that they were holding the men but refused to say why or where.

"When I came to Yugoslavia I performed some intelligence tasks in this country by using the cover of CARE Australia. My concentration was on Kosovo and some effects of the bombing," said Mr Pratt in the confession.

"I misused my Yugoslav citizen staff in the acquisition of information. I realised that damage was done to this country by these actions for which I am greatly sorry. I also did, and I still do, condemn the bombing of this country."

He did not elaborate further and state television then cut to another story.

Samira, Mr Pratt's pregnant Yemeni wife, has been waiting in the Hungarian capital, Budapest, for news of her husband. Yesterday she was understood to be too distressed to comment.

EMIL VAS / REUTERS



Russian Cossacks look on as Patriarch Pavle, leader of the Serbian Orthodox Church, prepares to conduct an Easter Day service in a central Belgrade church yesterday. Nato aircraft continued their offensive over the weekend, with airstrikes on Yugoslav targets despite Serbian calls for a lull in hostilities to mark the Orthodox Easter celebrations



Prince Alexander and Princess Katherine yesterday

Exiled Prince in peace plea

Easter message highlights civilian suffering, writes Eve-Ann Prentice

THE exiled head of the Yugoslav Royal Family vowed yesterday never to return to his country while "that bastard" Slobodan Milosevic remained in power.

Speaking amid hundreds of applauding Serbs as they marked Orthodox Easter Day in London yesterday, Crown Prince Alexander Karadjordjevic called on Nato to halt its bombing campaign in Serbia, saying that the air raids were merely cementing President Milosevic's hold on power.

The Prince, born at Claridge's in a room declared Yugoslav for a day, is the eldest son of King Peter II, who fled from the Nazis in 1941 and has spent his life in exile.

He and his wife, Crown Princess Katherine, were welcomed as they entered the Serbian Community Centre in Ladbroke Grove, beside St Sava's Serbian Orthodox Church. The Prince said: "I am against the bombing because it is hurting my people which practises ethnic cleansing. To be a big nation, we must respect all nations. Easter is very special and to be true Christians you must recognise everyone."

Prince Alexander has written to Tony Blair, President Clinton and President Chirac of France calling for an end to Nato's airstrikes. He said that the action had "turned into a real nightmare the lives of ordinary Yugoslav citizens, the people who are not guilty of anything. Civilian casualties are mounting and the scars will take generations to heal."

He repeated in his letter a common accusation among Serbs that Nato has double standards: "You will recall that when, in 1995, the Serbs were ethnically cleansed from Croatia and Western Bosnia, no one came to their rescue."

Earlier, at least 1,000 people at St Sava's heard a message from the Serbian Orthodox Patriarch, Pavle. He called for peaceful co-existence in Kosovo and condemned the Nato

Cossacks ride in to join Serb 'brothers'

Russian media dismiss President's anti-Nato rhetoric as ploy to avert impeachment, Anna Blundy writes



As Russian anger grows against the build-up of Nato forces, a gunner in a Lynx helicopter of the 659 Squadron, Army Air Corps, keeps vigil on the Macedonian border

RUSSIAN Cossacks joined Serbian resistance to the Nato bombardments at the weekend, gathering on Belgrade's bridges to form a human shield. The Cossacks are the first Russians actively to support Yugoslavia in defiance of President Yeltsin's assurances that Russia will not be drawn into the Balkans conflict.

"Russian love and Russian power are with you," one Cossack was reported as saying to a group of Serbs, who chanted Russia! Russia! Russia! in return.

Last month Cossack leaders, known as *atamans*, ominously pledged to mobilise 5,000 volunteers to defend the Serbs against Nato raids.

With their distinctive dress, tall lambskin hats, tsarist tunics and cavalry sabres, the Orthodox Cossacks are a fitting symbol of Russia's ancient links with their Slav brothers.

Almost annihilated under Communism, Russia's three million Cossacks were officially rehabilitated as a people by Mikhail Gorbachev and their revival has been a source of pride and concern ever since.

The militarist and nationalist Union of Cossacks was reformed in 1990 and is taken seriously enough for all Russian presidential candidates to have felt compelled visit Novocherkassk, the southern Cossack capital before the 1996 election.

The Cossacks were Russia's southern border guards for two centuries before the communist revolution. Although they are often romanticised, their glorious past is largely mythical, a nationalistic superiority complex developed in the 19th Century when they felt their influence waning.

In the meantime, the Russian media agree that Mr Yeltsin's sabre-rattling against Nato has proved successful in staving off imminent impeachment proceedings against him. While his threats of world war and promises of an alliance with Serbia have worried the West, they were meant for domestic consumption.

Referring to the announcement on Friday, later retracted, that Russian nuclear missiles had been aimed at Nato countries, *Kommersant* daily's headline read: "The Rocket Trick — Yeltsin strikes a blow at impeachment." The front-page photograph showed Mr Yeltsin throwing his arms out like a successful magician.

Mr Yeltsin appealed to the pro-Serb feelings of the majority of his countrymen in an effort to endear himself to the communists and nationalists who want to get rid of him, and it seems to have worked.

Commentators concur that the impeachment vote against the President, on charges including the use of force in Chechnya and the illegal disintegration of the Soviet Union, is likely to be postponed indefinitely.

Few Russians take Mr Yeltsin's threats against Nato seriously at face value. *Komsomolskaya Pravda* asks: "Eleven minutes to nuclear war or was the chief just joking again?" About 76 per cent of people polled by *Segodnya* newspaper do not think aiming missiles at the West is a good idea in any case. But nobody believes that his comments were the ramblings of an ailing old man.

The President was up to something. Though the missile "misunderstanding" and Mr Yeltsin's threat of possible Russian military involvement in the Kosovo crisis were eventually explained away by frantic Kremlin aides, the delay was long enough to change the President's image in the eyes of his people. "Even though the rockets were not redirected, the fact is that this high-level leak took place and was not quickly retracted. This means it was intended to put pressure on Nato to improve Mr Yeltsin's popularity before the impeachment vote," says Yerlan Zhurabayev, *Obshchaya Gazeta's* international affairs editor. "I am sure it was a bluff, but there is a lot of pressure on Yeltsin to take a tougher stance." Mr Yeltsin's demands that Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister, avert the threat of impeachment or face the sack also appear to have had the desired effect.

Mr Primakov appeared on television over the weekend and wholeheartedly backed the President, warning of national instability should impeachment go ahead. Analysts agree that the Duma vote seems unlikely as Mr Yeltsin's brilliant political manoeuvring pays off yet again.

West unnerved as erratic Yeltsin beats the Slavic drum

Nato's soothing words have little impact on the Kremlin, Michael Binyon writes

WHEN Madeleine Albright meets Igor Ivanov, the Russian Foreign Minister, tomorrow, the US Secretary of State will first want to know whether President Yeltsin's warnings of a wider war presage a return to East-West confrontation. Or are they merely the symptoms of a power struggle in Moscow?

The questions will be urgently discussed today at Nato foreign ministers' meetings. Mr Yeltsin's warning of a third world war was swiftly played down by Kremlin officials. But it has underlined the sensitivity in Moscow at being marginalised in the Balkan conflict. Threat of a return to the Cold War would swiftly turn Western opinion against the Nato war.

The escalating rhetoric by Duma and Kremlin officials provoked a flurry of telephone calls over the weekend, with Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and other leaders attempting to assess Russia's mood and reassure Moscow that Nato airstrikes do not threaten Russian security.

Mr Ivanov told Mr Cook that Moscow did not intend to be drawn into the Yugoslav conflict. He gave similar promises to Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, and Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister. They, in turn, insisted that Russia will be included in the search for a solution. Officials from the Group of Eight industrial nations met in Dresden to discuss a possible foreign ministers' meeting on Kosovo — the first full conference between senior Russian and Western officials since bombing began. Gregori Mamedov, the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, emerged saying it had been easier to find a common language within G8 than within a Nato context.

But for all the reassurance given to Moscow, the war has become linked to the Kremlin power struggle. The West's difficulty is to know how much weight to place on Mr Yeltsin's erratic statements. Privately, diplomats say he is concerned with stopping his powers ebbing away to Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Prime Minister, and feels obliged to bang the drum of Slav solidarity. But publicly the West cannot dismiss his warnings, nor shrug them off as politics. That would exacerbate the anti-Nato mood.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

'Lost children' wall reunites families

Stephen Farrell in Brazde finds a tragic symbol of the Kosovo diaspora



PETER NICHOLLS

The 'Losted Children' wall at Brazde camp in Macedonia draws refugees in search of information of missing families. A poster, below, of Jehona Aliu seeks news of her parents

IT IS the first thing you see as you enter Brazde refugee camp. A nondescript, peeling whitewashed wall before which scores of Kosovans return to press themselves in near-supplication at all hours of the day.

It is the "Losted Children" wall. No one knows how many people have been separated from their families in the mass movement of refugees across the borders into Albania and Macedonia, only that every row of tents in every temporary camp throws up countless examples of a missing child, wife or husband. Their relatives leave to others the fears surrounding the expected handover by Nato of the camps to the Macedonian authorities, whose police have been accused of beating and abusing the people they are soon to protect.

For those milling around the wall all that matters is finding their loved ones. Elderly women stand on tiptoe to read the curling, scrawled notices pinned on the 50ft by 8ft wall high above their reach. Fathers scan notices typed on the backs of United Nations High Commisioner for Refugees' stationery and printed on scraps of cardboard boxes.

One former Republic of Yugoslavia passport is there, bearing the details of 45-year-old Mrs Kadriu Salihe from Lipljan. Another photocopied sheet bears, in colour, pictures of Egzona Kasabaqi — aged four, "brown hair, brown eyes" — and her father Nexhat, 45, from Pristina.

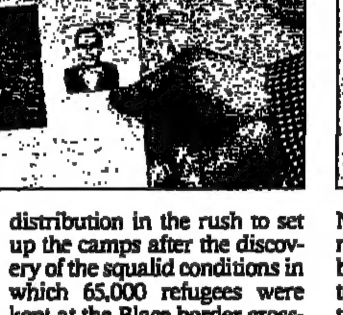
Entrusted with the task of finding which other camps and countries have taken the people, herded on to different trains and buses, is the International Committee of the Red Cross, and its registration scheme. New arrivals drop their messages in a cardboard box marked "Messages" pinned to the centre of the wall, and next to it is the ICRC's Lost Children list giving details of family name, father's name, child's name, age, town and camp.

Top of the list is five-year-old Jehona Aliu, the five-year-old girl from Ferizaj, whose plight was reported by *The Times* last Friday. She became separated from her mother, brothers and sisters when she went to the toilet at the Blace border crossing two weeks ago. Jehona is still the only long-standing occupant of the Lost Children tent run by Captain Bill Soper of the Royal Engineers. She still sits, combing a doll's hair, inside the tent where she comforts other children who arrive, stay until their tearful mothers are found among the 20,000 plus camp population and depart, leaving her behind.

The British Army has now issued a poster of Jehona to be circulated around Macedonia, Albania and anywhere they hope to find her father, Sherif, and mother, Sadije. The black and white posters bear the message: "Jehona Aliu, aged five. She was found at Blace and is from Ferizaj. We are looking for her mother Sadije and father Sherif. Anyone who knows Jehona or her parents pleace contact Captain Bill Soper (English) at the Brazde refugee camp, telephone 070 226 370."

Captain Soper, 48, of 28 Engineer Regiment, is now desperate to find them because many of his local refugee helpers are moving on, having themselves found places to go. "I am getting anxious. We have had no sightings whatsoever," he said last night. "We think her parents ,went straight off to Albania. She had a crying session last night because she had a bad dream that she had lost her sister, but we are still hoping." Other missing children come from the Brazde, Bojane, Stankovic and Neprostino camps, but older ones are also being sought. Mejdi Malici, 52, yesterday posted details of his children Bejnik, 20, and Edita, 24. "They are somewhere in Tetovo but I do not know where. We were separated a week ago, two days after we left Pristina. I hope I can find them, I do not know if this will work, but there is nothing else I can try," he said.

Beside the ICRC "Losted Children" list is the Missing Families section, where any journalist or aid worker with a mobile telephone is liable to be asked if it can be borrowed to inform friends and families of people's whereabouts.





Outside the gates of Brazde, Macedonian guards continue to patrol the fences as buses arrive and depart bringing refugees to and from other sites. Nato will not say when it is due to hand over the running of camps but it is expected within the next few days.

The Royal Engineers took the lead in setting up drainage, water supplies and food distribution in the rush to set up the camps after the discovery of the squalid conditions in which 65,000 refugees were kept at the Blace border crossing nearby, but the number of British forces at Brazde has dropped from 250 at its peak to around 80, out of a total of 300 Nato personnel. The Macedonians have promised not to blockade refugees in camps after worldwide protests over the conditions at Blace and the forcible late night movement of 30,000 people from the camp without the knowledge of aid agencies.

Greek threats spark exodus

FROM JAMES PETTIFER IN KAKAVIA

HIGH up here in the Buret mountains on the Greek-Albanian border, hundreds of Albanian workers are fleeing Greece with their families after death threats from Orthodox extremists.

Usually people leave Albania to go to Greece but the war has reversed the flight. A queue of cars miles long stretches down the hillside. Many come from northern Greek towns with strong nationalist and Orthodox traditions.

Miranda and Ilir Gjika stand by the family Fiat, loaded with all their belongings after three years' work in the town of Arta. "We had our flat windows broken. Then our boy here was hit in the street. Last week they painted 'Orthodoxy or Death' and a Cross on the flat door," they said.

The Greek nationalist Right has a strong clerical flavour, ranging from the lunatic fringe that wants to take 666 off the telephone directory because it is the devil's number, to young skinheads who have adapted Orthodox vocabulary, however much the church rejects them.

Further down the line of cars was Arben, an engineer who had been studying in Salonika. With the city's large Serb diaspora population, he felt a particular target. "They threw me out of the university dormitory. And the police blame Albanians for everything."

On the Greek side of the argument, Albanian crime is a big problem. Popular feeling in Greece over the war is overwhelmingly pro-Yugoslav, and a football match last week between Partizan of Belgrade and a Greek team turned into a wild anti-Nato political demonstration. The continuation of bombing over Orthodox Easter has brought popular feeling to a head.

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Sophie may not vow to 'obey' Prince Edward

Royal couple are playing wedding plans close to chest, writes Alan Hamilton

REPORTS that Sophie Rhys-Jones will promise to obey Prince Edward when they marry on June 19 are distinctly premature, Buckingham Palace said yesterday.

Officials claimed yesterday that details of the wedding had still to be finalised, and that they would be released "in due course". The Prince played his courtship close to his chest, and even managed to keep his engagement secret until he was ready to announce it in his own time.

But speculation, inevitably, is already rife on the details of the ceremony, which is to be conducted in St George's Chapel, Windsor, by the Bishop of Norwich, in front of 500 invited guests and with 2,000 members of the public admitted to the castle courtyard outside to watch the arrivals and departures.

The ceremony is expected to be along traditional lines, but the bride's promise to obey her husband is heard less and less in these days of presumed sexual equality.

Diana, Princess of Wales, declined to obey at her marriage ceremony in St Paul's Cathedral in 1981, as did Ffion Jenkins when she married William Hague in the Commons crypt in 1997.

The Prince and Miss Rhys-Jones will start marriage on an equal footing in as much as both run their own businesses — he a television production company and she a public relations consultancy. But both are thought to be in favour of tradition, as is the bishop who will marry them.

Most marriages in the Church of England are conducted according to the 1980 Alternative Service Book, which allows a choice. Couples may "love, cherish and obey" or, rather, simply "love and cherish."

But Church leaders have been surprised at reaction to their new Millennium Prayer Book, designed for use in the next century and quietly launched last summer for test-marketing in 400 parishes. Initial versions completely omitted the word "obey" because the liturgical committee which drew up the book believed it to be old-fashioned and that no modern woman would want it.

Parishes, however, were quick to insist that a woman should at least have the choice, and "obey" was quietly slotted back in.

The Millennium Prayer Book also proposes that it be optional for a bride to walk up the aisle with her father, because it gives the impression that a woman is the property of a man. Instead, in a feminist twist, a couple can arrive at the church together and walk up the aisle together.

It is highly unlikely that the Prince and Miss Rhys-Jones will choose that option; the bride is almost certain to be accompanied up the aisle by her father, Christopher.

Instead of having a single best man, however, the Prince is believed to be considering having both his brothers, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, as "supporters" for the ceremony.

The Prince is expected to use the marriage service from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, which follows closely Thomas Cranmer's ringing and poetic text from the 1662 Anglican prayer book. The 1980 Alternative Service Book is regarded by many as having killed off the poetry.



Rhys-Jones: believed to be a traditionalist



MARK O'NEILL/REUTERS

Life after Spice: Geri Halliwell appears on Canadian television during a world tour to promote her first record since leaving the Spice Girls

MP tries to derail the Royal Train

By Alan Hamilton

A LABOUR MP will try to shunt the Royal Train into the scrapyard this week, despite strenuous attempts by Buckingham Palace to cut its running costs.

Alan Williams, a member of the Commons Public Accounts Committee, said yesterday he would ask Sir John Bourn, Comptroller and Auditor-General and the Government's financial watchdog, to review the Palace's £17 million annual travel budget.

The MP for Swansea West admitted that his principal target was the train, which during the past financial year was used only 19 times but still cost £1.1 million. Its most notorious journey was to take the Queen from Victoria station to the 1997 Derby, a 20-mile run that cost £11,800.

If Sir John agrees to a review, he will order the National Audit Office to examine funding of all royal travel, including the train and the RAF Royal Squadron. The report could go before the Public Accounts Committee for scrutiny by MPs.

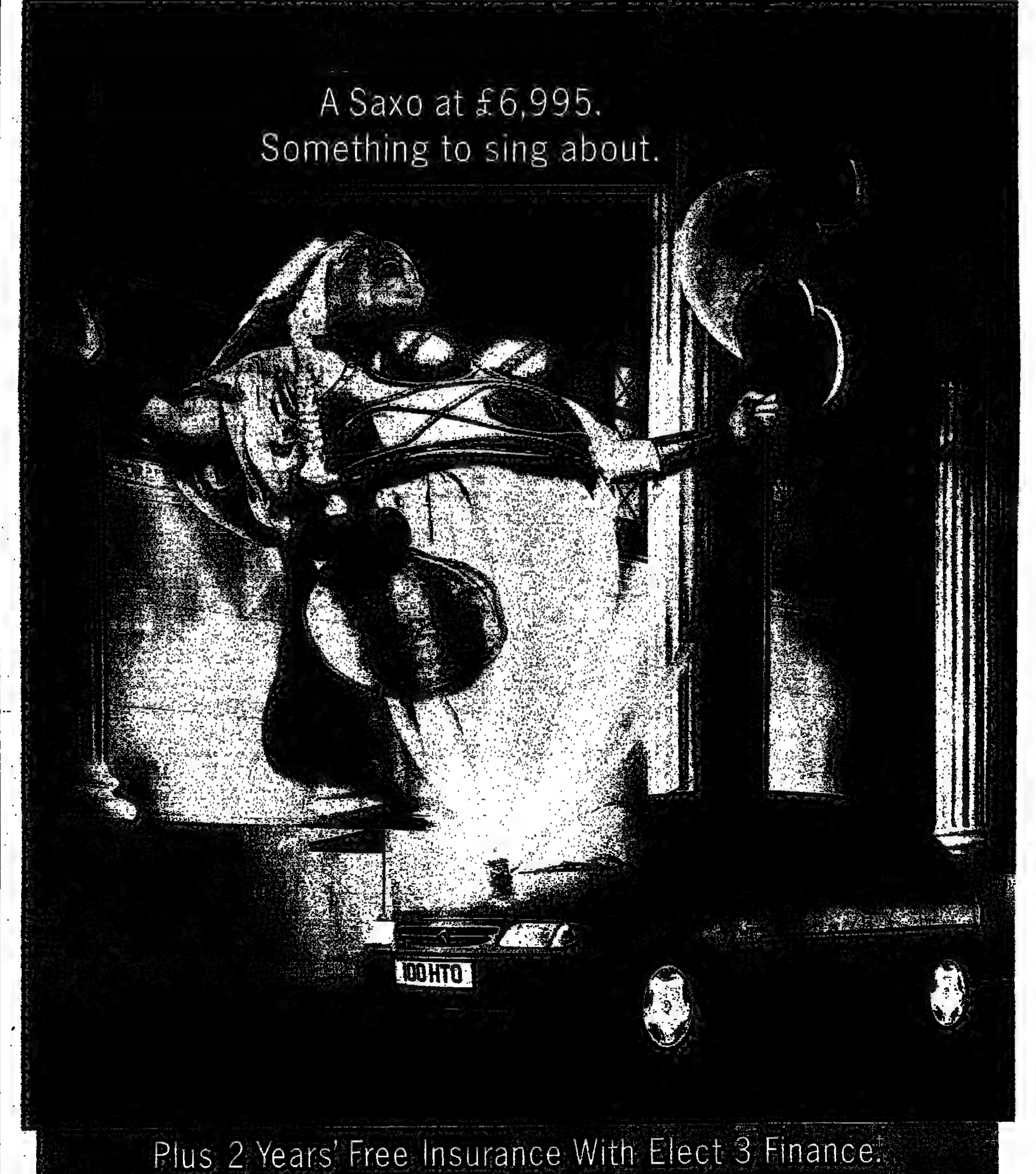
Two years ago, in a reorganisation of royal finances, the Palace assumed direct control of the travel budget. Last year Sir Michael Peat, Keeper of the Privy Purse and the Queen's senior financial adviser, announced savings of £2 million on the royal travel budget.

Costs of running the Royal Train were cut in the first year from a budgeted £1.8 million to £1.1 million. Sir Michael said at the time that the cost for the current financial year should be less than £1 million.

Recently the Palace announced that it would further cut costs by leasing the train to ministers for official duties but there have been no takers. The train has been cut from 14 coaches to eight and its two locomotives now work on normal duties when not required for royal travel.

Mr Williams said: "I want the whole system looked at, to see if we are getting value for money under the new arrangements. I spent years chasing the waste on the Royal Yacht. The train is very similar — both are royal toys.

"It is hard to see why government departments would want to use the train at all, as ministers have been happily travelling about their business on ordinary trains for years."



Pupils' exam blunders are no joke for school chiefs

Education department is less than amused by shocking ignorance, reports **Diana Blamires**

A MYTH is a female moth and Joan of Arc was burnt to a steak, according to GCSE candidates who have come top of the class in misunderstanding and inspired guesswork.

A list of the top 20 clangers in recent examination answers has been compiled by examiners throughout Britain.

Howlers may bring light relief to examiners but the Department of Education and Employment was yesterday not amused by the shocking ignorance displayed by some candidates.

A spokeswoman said: "The Government views improving literacy as very important. It has introduced a new literacy strategy to help pupils improve their reading, writing and spelling. Primary school children now have to spend an hour reading every day as part of the strategy.

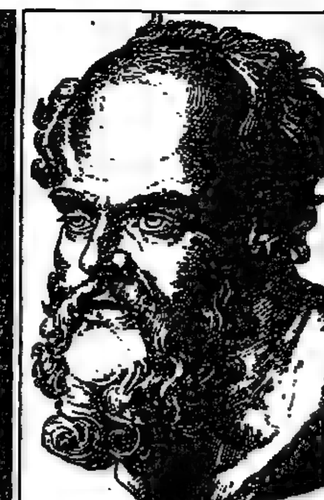
"We are trying to ensure that children have the basic skills once they reach secondary schools so that hopefully these kind of mistakes will be made less often in the future," she said.

"The Government is aware of claims that GCSE standards are slipping. The Qualifications and Curriculum Agency carried out research to see whether GCSE standards had fallen over the years and concluded that they are being maintained.

"The Government has set up an independent panel to monitor GCSE and A level standards."



Raleigh: did not invent cigarettes and smoking



Socrates: did not die from an overdose of wedlock



Drake: did not circumcise the world with a clipper

Nick Seaton, chairman of the Campaign for Real Education, which is pressing for higher standards in state schools, said: "These howlers suggest that there are serious deficiencies in pupils' learning of the basics. They are making a lot of spelling mistakes and misusing commonly used words.

"There is a considerable amount of research showing that GCSE standards have got worse. If you look at grade A GCSE exam papers now compared with those ten years ago there are more spelling mistakes in the later papers. It is something that should be addressed as a matter of urgency. These mistakes are occurring too frequently for it to be by chance."

Theresa May, the Conservative education spokesman, added: "It is a concern when we see people who have come through the system making these howlers.

"The Government needs to make sure that everyone learns the basics. It is very important to make sure that standards don't fall.

"There are also fears that boys are not doing as well as girls at GCSE because there is more coursework involved," she added. "Boys often tend to leave all the work until the end and do last-minute revision for exams."

The examiners who marked recent history, music, religion and classical studies GCSE examination papers found that some pupils would have benefited from more revision.

History has been rewritten for some of our nation's greatest heroes. According to one pupil: "Sir Walter Raleigh is a historical figure — he invented cigarettes and started smoking."

Another candidate wrote: "Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100ft clipper."

The further back into history that pupils delved, the more their memories failed them. "Ancient Egypt was inhabited by mummies and they wrote in hydraulics," wrote one confused candidate. "Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul," wrote another.

Pupils who had no answers resorted to hypothesising. "Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf — he was so deaf he wrote loud music," claimed one candidate, while another suggested: "The sun never set on the British Empire because the British Empire is in the East and the sun sets in the West."

The Classics also produced some classics. "In the Olympic Games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits and threw the java," according to one candidate. "Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock — after his death his career suffered a dramatic decline," was also not the right answer.

Some pupils chose to invent their own religion when Biblical questions proved too taxing. "Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments," one mistaken pupil answered. A new theory of Creation was offered by another candidate who declared: "Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree."



Contrary to the belief of one GCSE pupil, Joan of Arc was not burnt to a steak

Ex-wife steps up pressure on Woodhead to resign

By Hannah Betts

PRESSURE was increasing on the Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead, yesterday as the Government announced it was examining documents sent by his ex-wife that she claims provehe lied about an affair with a former pupil.

Cathy Woodhead joined calls for an inquiry into the episode, adding that she may sue her former husband if the Government refuses to take action.

Department for Education and Employment officials said they had received information and documents from her. But they would not reveal the nature of the information, nor whether it could threaten Mr Woodhead's career.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, said yesterday that, so far, he had been made aware of no evidence that would affect Mr Woodhead's position. "Angry and distraught recollections or notes made by a solicitor in the autumn of 1976 do not constitute a case for action or anything that could threaten Chris Woodhead's job," he added.



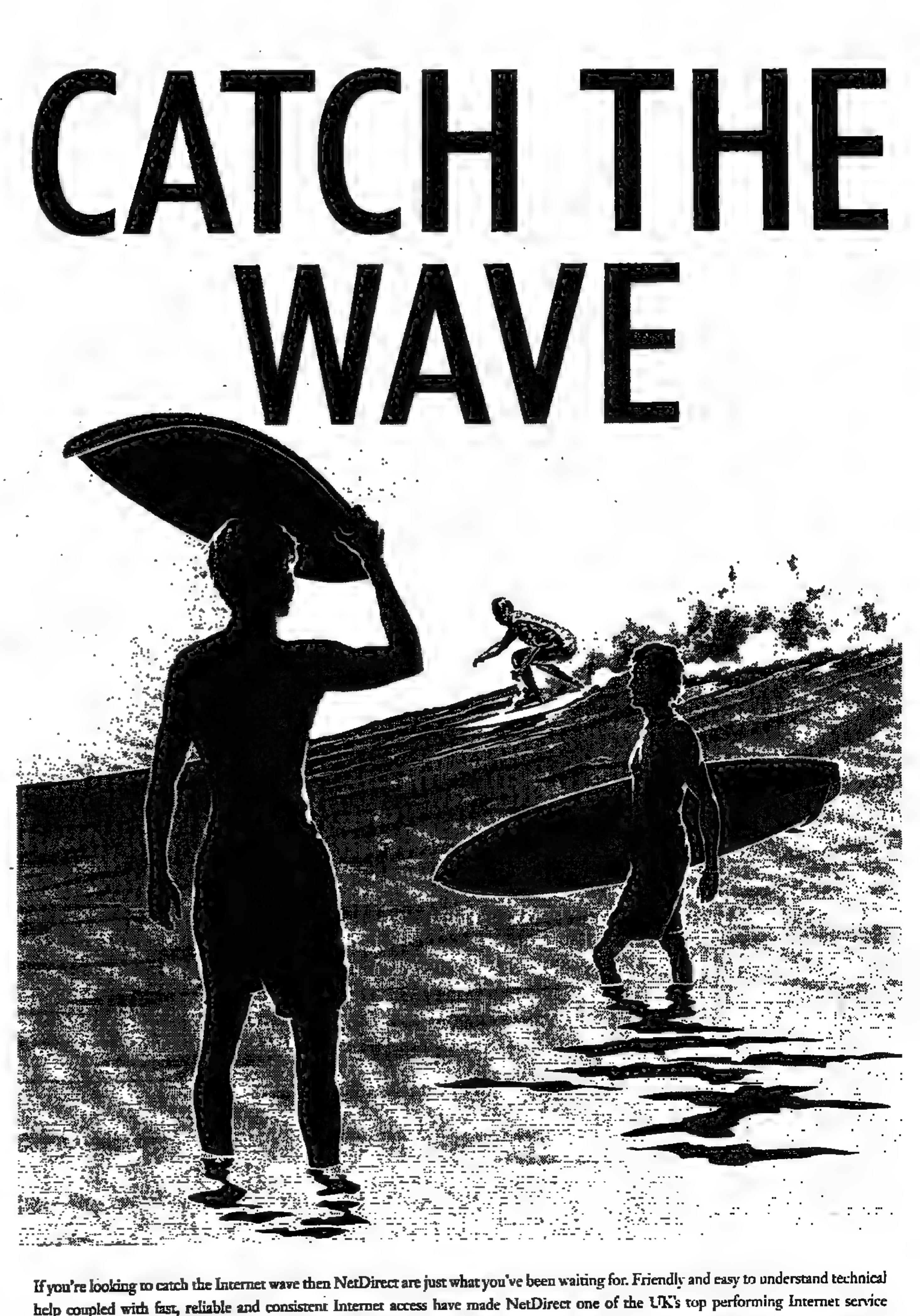
Cathy Woodhead on her wedding day

Mr Woodhead said: "I have no comment to make on what my former wife wants to do. She must make up her own mind to do what she wants to do for herself."

Cathy Woodhead accuses her ex-husband of trying to conceal the fact that his affair with Amanda Johnston began while he was a teacher and she a pupil at the Gordano School in Bristol in the mid-Seventies — an allegation that Mr Woodhead and Ms Johnston have denied.

Mrs Woodhead also claims that her ex-husband tried to persuade her to collude in the denial, to protect his £115,000-a-year job. She has argued that solicitors' notes from their divorce proceedings make it clear that the affair pre-dated Ms Johnston leaving school.

Within the last month, former Gordano School teachers have supported her allegations. The Labour MP Alice Mahon tabled a Commons motion calling on Mr Woodhead to resign — a call backed by several delegates to the National Union of Teachers' Easter conference. Other unions have argued in favour of a government inquiry.



TOM FINNIE

Early bird: a newly arrived puffin finds a roost on Sumburgh Head, the most southerly point on Shetland. The birds, which spend most of their lives at sea, returning to land only to breed, have arrived nearly a month early this year because of a plentiful supply of inshore food

Bishop pleads for solution to arms deadlock

Blair and Ahern on standby in hope of Ulster breakthrough, reports Audrey Magee

SINN FEIN and the Ulster Unionists will go to Stormont tomorrow to try to salvage the Northern Ireland peace process from collapse. The two sides are as polarised as ever over the decommissioning of IRA arms.

Sean Brady, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, pleaded yesterday with both sides to find a solution and avoid a return to the "mayhem, murder and misery" that has dominated life in the Province for more than 30 years.

The chances of a solution, however, are slim. Sinn Fein refuses to recognise the Hillsborough Declaration, drawn up by the British and Irish Governments before Easter in an attempt to break the deadlock. The republicans describe it as "unacceptable".

The declaration proposes that the political parties in Northern Ireland nominate an executive and, within a month, hold a day of reconciliation when terrorists will prove that their weapons are "beyond use". Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern, to give Sinn Fein some leeway, said decommissioning was not a precondition to entry to the executive, but "an obligation".

One republican source, a former IRA prisoner, described the declaration as "a waste of paper": no amount of semantics would make the IRA hand over their arms, particularly when loyalist violence was on the increase.

The republican movement's continued defiance leaves the two Governments in a difficult position. David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, wants tangible proof of IRA disarmament before his party sits on the executive with Sinn Fein. He also needs it to win back the half of his assembly party opposed to the peace process.

One Unionist source said: "There is no room for manoeuvre. The UUP leadership has gone as far it can go. We are looking to the republicans for movement. And it has to be real movement. Showing a sealed bunker as supposed proof of 'beyond use' is not enough."

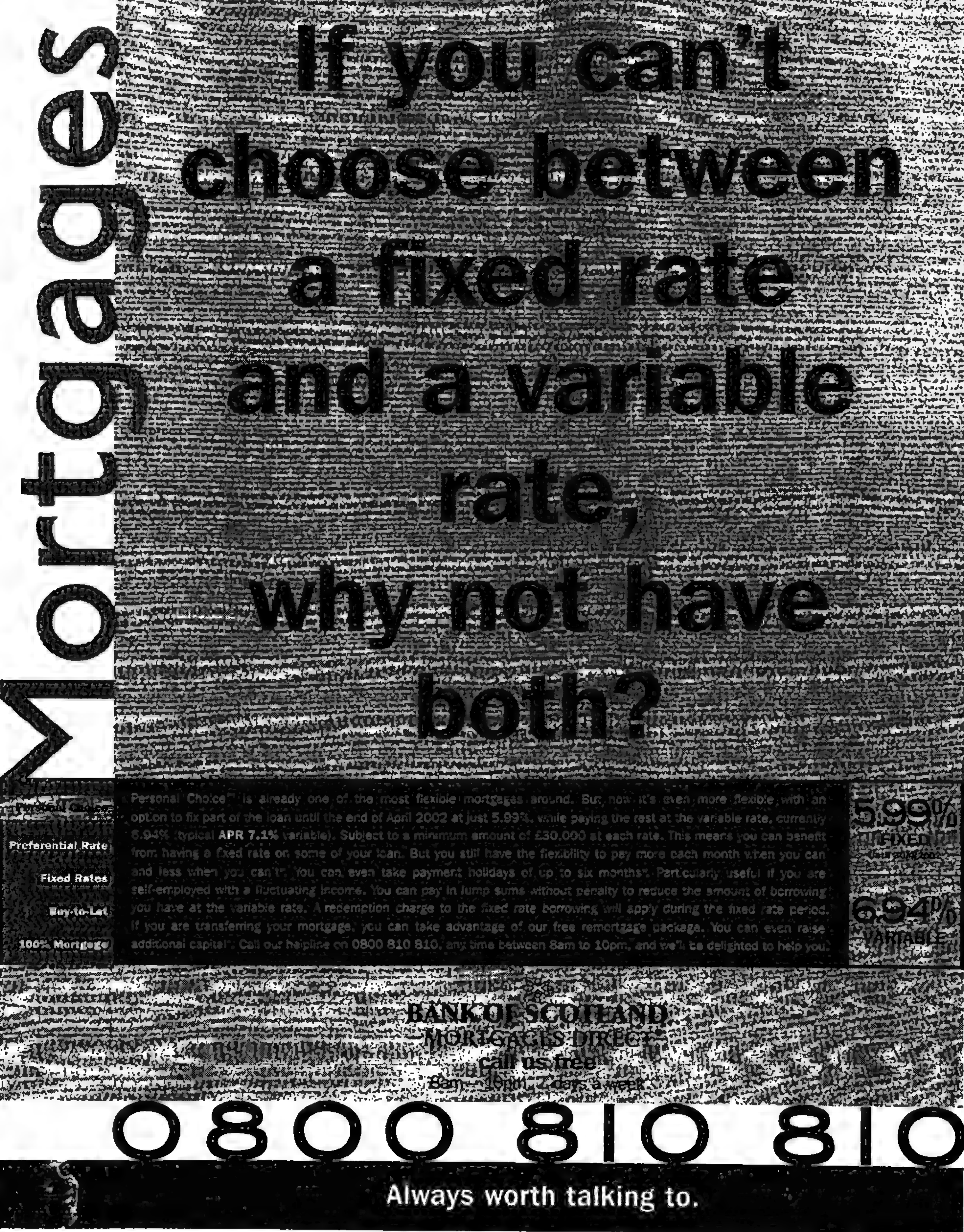
Decommissioning has been an issue in the peace process since the start, but the two Governments have repeatedly skirted around it, hoping that a way out would emerge as the peace process rolled on. While Unionists continued to insist on the handover of IRA weapons, despite Sinn Fein's insistence that it could not deliver, Sinn Fein hoped the matter would be dropped.

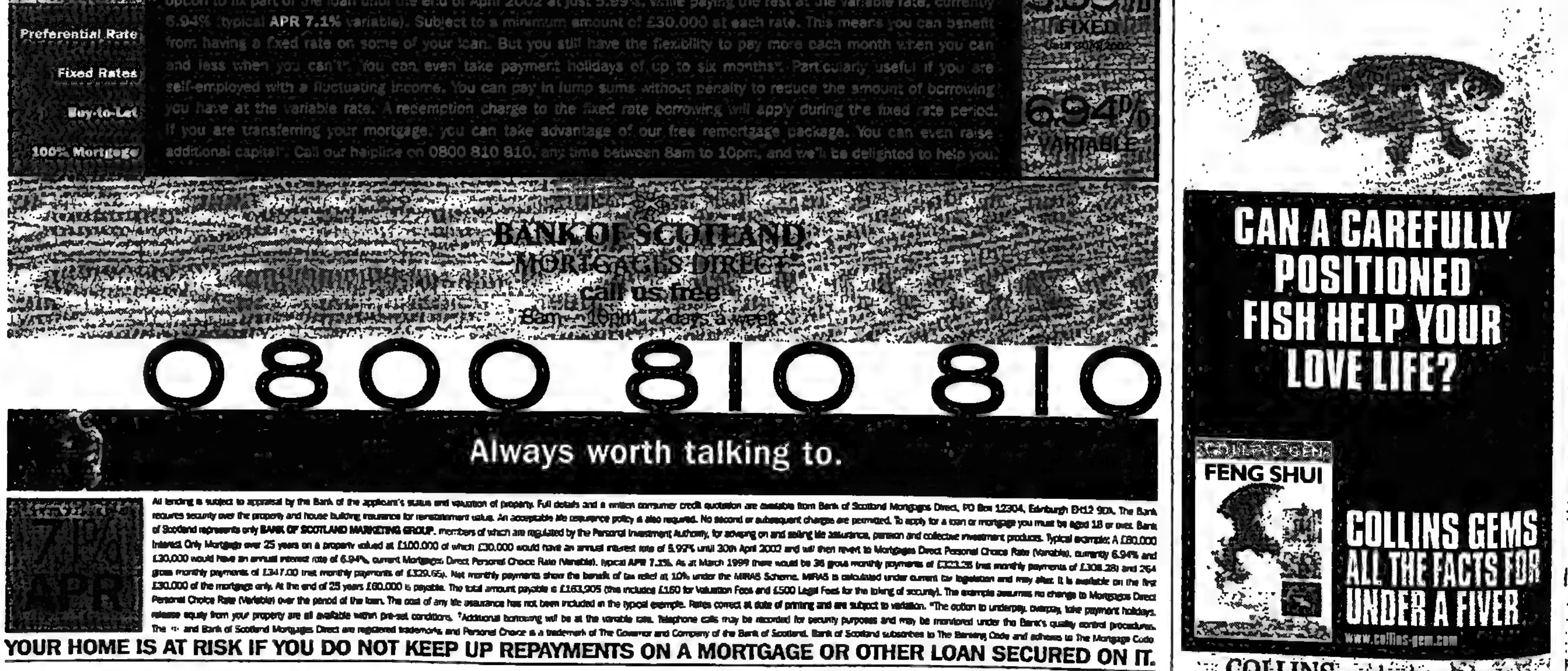
Republicans view any handover of weapons as a surrender. If a way is to be found round the deadlock, the two Governments must come up with a way of satisfying the Unionists without securing an IRA surrender. Such a move could result in a split in Sinn Fein and major defections to the republican dissidents.

To date, a successful formula has been elusive. However, the Governments remain optimistic that one will be found and are encouraged by both sides' willingness to try to find a political solution. "Sinn Fein hasn't thrown the whole process out of the window and said they're not coming back, so there is hope yet," one Dublin source said.

The talks will be led tomorrow by Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and David Andrews, the Irish Foreign Minister. Mr Blair and Mr Ahern are on standby if there are signs of movement.

Leading article, page 23





Darts research scores bull's eye

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

AMATEUR darts players do themselves no favours by trying to copy the champions seen on television.

David Percy, a mathematician at Salford University, has proved that for poor players, aiming at the treble 20 is not the best strategy. Rank amateurs do better to risk derision and aim at the bull's eye, he says. Slightly better players should go for the treble 14.

Dr Percy has applied Bayesian decision theory to the game, using data provided by three Salford students. The method is a way of drawing sound conclusions from limited data.

He asked the students to aim 50 darts at a cross on a sheet of graph paper. From this he could work out the scatter in each student's throwing.

He used the data to simulate the results of throwing 10,000 darts, and calculated an average score per dart for different target points on the board.

Top players aim at the treble 20 because it is worth 60, ten more than the bull's eye. But the 20 sector is flanked by one and five, and he calculated that poor players are liable to end up scoring a paltry 26.

In *Mathematics Today*, Dr Percy concludes that the two worst players he tested would score more by going for the bull. The difference is not enormous — rather less than an average one point per dart thrown.

However, even for the third and most competent player, the best results would come from going for the bull rather than his next best option, treble 14.

Play to win: amateurs should forget treble 20

Maxwell daughters earn place in rich list

Self-made fortune propels twins into wealth league, reports Robin Young



Isabel Maxwell started business on a shoestring . . .

THE twin daughters of the late Robert Maxwell are among a growing number of women newcomers to the list of the richest people in Britain. When *The Sunday Times* first published its "Rich List" ten years ago there were only six women in it, including the Queen. Now the number is reckoned to be 71, up from 56 last year.

Christine and Isabel Maxwell, 48, won a place in the latest list because of their success in creating a £100 million fortune from Internet stocks in California.

They started McKinley Group on a shoestring in 1992 to help people to find information on the World Wide Web. When they sold the business in 1995 to Excite Internet, half the proceeds went to clear debts, but when Excite itself was sold in January the value of the sisters' stake had risen almost 2,000 per cent.

Philip Beresford, who charts the fortunes of the wealthy for *The Sunday Times*, said yesterday: "The sisters' fortune has everything to do with their entrepreneurial savvy rather than any help from their father. Based in California, they quietly built their own business and when they sold it in 1995 they received about £4.4 million worth of Excite shares in part payment. By mid-1998 those shares were worth about £50 million, but when Excite was sold in January their shares were worth £100 million."

The twins' father died in November 1991 after falling overboard from his yacht *Lady Ghislaine*, named after a younger daughter. Two of his sons, Ian and Kevin, were cleared in 1996 of defrauding Maxwell company pension funds.

Kevin Maxwell, 39, who received £10 million in legal aid, is still involved in litigation concerning an inquiry into the Maxwell flotation of Mirror Group Newspapers in 1991. He was declared bankrupt with liabilities of more than £400 million.

His brother Ian, 41, narrowly escaped bankruptcy but had to endure the break-up of his marriage. He recently announced his second engagement. The two brothers now work together for a publishing company.

Their twin sisters are ranked 227th equal in the rich list as a result of their shares windfall, but have still not done quite as well as the offspring of another famous father who is also new to the list. Paloma Picasso, daughter of the artist, is the highest-placed of all the new entrants to the list, coming in at equal 54th position.

The London-based businesswoman and her husband, Rafael Lopez-Cambil, recently went through an expensive divorce. *The Sunday Times* estimates that even after settling the divorce and legal costs, Picasso's cosmetics and fashion accessories empire may have increased her inherited fortune to about £350 million.

This puts her well above the Queen, now at 87th equal in the list, whose personal fortune in investments and art is calculated to be worth £250 million.

Other debutantes in the list include Slavica Ecclestone, the Croatian-born wife of Bernie Ecclestone, who is reckoned to share a fortune of £900 million in his Formula One motor-racing empire, and Josie Rowland, widow of the businessman Tiny, reckoned to have inherited £26 million in British assets but perhaps to have another £200 million elsewhere. Anne Wood, the creator of *Teletubbies*, is reckoned to have become worth £55 million as a result of their success, and is added to the list at 446th equal, alongside Christina Foyle of the London bookshop who is credited with a similar fortune as a result of "new information" about "her considerable private assets".

The Maxwell daughters are bettered among the list's Internet millionaires only by Paul Sykes, the vociferous euro opponent, who is reckoned to have £400 million of sterling equivalent to fight for.

Other Internet millionaires new to the list are Peter Wilkinson, who sold his stake in Planet Online last year (£35 million), Cliff Stanford, who founded Demon Internet in the boiler room of a London cinema in 1992 (£30 million), Jan Murray of Internet Technology (£28 million) and Mike Lynch of Autonomy Corporation (£25 million).

The ten quickest-made fortunes are calculated to be those of David Bromilow, who started in publishing and sports goods in 1991 and is now worth £800 million, Terry Matthews, whose average annual growth rate for his electronics business has exceeded £84 million since 1986, and James Dyson, whose vacuum cleaners launched in 1993 have sucked up £500 million in net worth.

Leading article, page 23

BRITAIN'S RICHEST TOP 10

Hans Rausing (food packaging, Tetra Pak)	£3,400m
Lord Sainsbury and family (retailing, J.Sainsbury)	£3,100m
George Soros (finance, Soros Fund Management)	£2,000m
Joseph Lewis (finance, living in Bahamas)	£1,750m
Duke of Westminster (land and property, Grosvenor Estate)	£1,750m
Lady Grantchester and the Moores family (Littlewoods stores, mail order and football pools)	£1,500m
Garfield Weston and family (Associated British Foods)	£1,500m
Sri and Gopi Hinduja (trading and finance, Hinduja Group)	£1,300m
Bruno Schroder and family (banking, Schroders)	£1,300m
Richard Branson (travel, retailing and entertainment, Virgin)	£1,200m
Lakshmi Mittal (steel, Ispat International)	£1,200m



. . . with twin Christine. Now they are worth £100 million

Cage holds the key to giving dog a home

By Audrey Magee

DOGS in animal shelters can be made more appealing to prospective buyers by moving their bedding and brightening up their cages with toys, according to research by psychologists.

Deborah Wells, of Queen's University, Belfast, and a colleague introduced the changes to the cages of 120 dogs in a shelter in Northern Ireland. Shifting the dogs' bedding to the front enticed the animals towards the public.

Dr Wells, who owns two dogs from animal shelters, said the changes had resulted in more dogs finding homes.

"There are three factors that determine whether a visitor will find an animal attractive," she said. "The first is the dog's breed; the second is the cage and environment, and, most importantly, there is the dog's behaviour. An animal's position in the pen is important. If a dog comes to the front, it is most likely to be viewed and make contact with the visitor."

She told the British Psychological Society's annual conference in Belfast that visitors stayed longer at the changed cages because they were "a more complex environment". The research is being used by shelters across the UK. The RSPCA rehoused about 28,000 dogs last year. It put down 12,365 for medical reasons and 800 for behavioural problems.

IT experts to top new year pay bonanza

By Dominic Kennedy

THE going rate for working this New Year's Eve is a bonus of £500 for ordinary employees, although computer experts are expected to command up to £10,000.

Employers in the private sector are offering large incentives so that people volunteer to work over the first weekend of 2000, instead of staying home and calling in sick.

The deals are complicated and varied, but most include a lump sum of about £500 plus perks ranging from holidays to boxes of chocolates for wives, according to research by Incomes Data.

The biggest bonuses will be paid to information technology experts, who are in huge demand to ensure computers are free from the millennium bug. According to the employment agency Adecco, some experts are asking for £10,000 to be on call over the weekend, while others plan to charge £1,000 an hour.

After IT workers, the biggest bonuses will be going to people who cannot have a drink, such as train drivers and emergency breakdown mechanics. London Underground staff have asked for a £1,000 bonus to keep the Tube system running. The AA, which wants to ensure a normal service to members, is persuading workers to volunteer by offering £750 to be on call, plus quadruple time for all hours worked.

Yorkshire Water is paying a £500 bonus to all staff on call over the millennium weekend, plus £150 if they have to work on New Year's Eve.

Three Valleys Water is placing the emphasis on domestic harmony for workers who are called out over the millennium to repair leaking pipes. Wives, husbands and lovers whose new year is ruined will be compensated with cinema or theatre tickets and a meal for two, up to the value of £150.

The BBC is offering £500 to anyone working between 9pm on New Year's Eve and 9am on New Year's Day. Anybody who works for 24 hours during those two days will receive an extra £100. ITN also has a basic £500 bonus. In addition, news staff who work on December 31 or January 1 will get an extra day's holiday on top of the normal new year entitlement.

Telecoms companies are preparing for a surge of telephone calls at midnight. BT's volunteer workers will get bank holiday payments of 2.5 times normal rate, plus £55 an hour. Everyone on call will get a lump sum of £280 per day. Cable & Wireless is paying four times normal salary, plus £250 a day.

Unions representing public-service workers are asking for £500 to match the bonuses paid in private industry, but employers, so far, have been reluctant to acquiesce.

The Royal College of Nursing has asked for £500 for its millennium-night nurses, while Unison is seeking a similar deal for everyone from street sweepers to live-in social workers.

Beastly views on animals spark passionate defence

By Philip Howard

DO THE other animals feel passions? Judges and sub-editors have a cliché of declaring that violent criminals behaved "like animals". After all these years of David Attenborough, they ought to know better. Very few other species behave as badly as Homo sapiens.

Gillian Clark, of Liverpool University, yesterday discussed the issue of animal passions at the Classical Association meeting at her university. She found it not beyond all conjecture. Anybody who has seen a tigress (or a Jack Russell bitch) robbed of her whelps, or ewes after their lambs are taken away, can observe that they feel something.

St Augustine said that animals do not have passions. Passion is a victory for desire over reason, and animals, unlike humans, do not have reason. Stoics also said not. Passions are judgments, such as "This is intolerable". And animals, unlike humans, do not assess their experience.

Porphyry, the 3rd-century Platonist author of a book *On Abstinence from Killing Animals*, argued that animals do have passions recognisably like human passions, and indeed a weaker form of reason. Animals are our kin, and we should not kill them unless in immediate self-defence.

Are animals like us because they have passions, or superior to us because they do not have passions? And what can animal passions tell us about the workings of human passions? In the words of the old music hall song, "Do Shrimps Make Good Mothers? Yes They Do".

After solving the puzzle, the Classical Association dined on



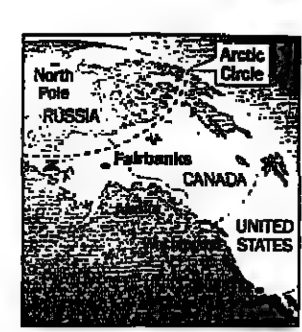
LA takes cold comfort from El Niño's sister

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE coldest spring in 100 years left the bewildered citizens of Los Angeles shivering at the weekend — if they were not skiing in the local mountains or gazing inland from the beach at scenes that might have been from Switzerland.

In what is officially the third week of spring, up to a foot and a half of snow blanketed the mountains that form the city's eastern edge, while temperatures on the fringes of Los Angeles County plunged lower than those in parts of Alaska. Late last week there were even reports of snow in suburbs as low as 1,000 feet above sea level.

A series of cold fronts generated in the Gulf of Alaska blew ashore last Wednesday, and failed to warm up over the weekend as predicted. The results included hail in Malibu and Hollywood, and temperatures of 18F atop Mount Wilson, a short



drive from Pasadena. In Fairbanks, which is just south of the Arctic Circle, the corresponding temperature was 19F.

The freak conditions in and around one of the most climatically spoilt cities on earth have been blamed by some on a split jetstream carrying weather normally destined for Washington State further south than usual. Others blame the cold snap on La Niña, El Niño's chilly sister.

Both weather phenomena are driven by changing surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean, but unlike the warm downpours dumped on Southern California last year by El Niño, La Niña has proved cold and relatively dry. Despite three winter storms since Easter, Los Angeles' total precipitation so far this year has been less than half last year's equivalent.

South of the city, the snow has brought tragedy. Last week, nine Mexicans died in blizzards in rugged mountains east of San Diego, where illegal immigrants increasingly cross the US border at night on foot because of clampdowns at official crossing points.

But in middle-class Los Angeles the effect of the freeze has been mainly sartorial.

Seldom-used sweaters have been pulled from bottom drawers and half-term family outings, complete with woolly hats and scarves, have resembled scenes from a New England winter.

From Santa Monica to Hermosa Beach, the groomed sands that by this time of year are usually welcoming their first plane loads of European sun worshippers were largely deserted over the weekend. Joggers ran in full tracksuits, surfers were few and far between, and the *Los Angeles Times* asked in a baffled reference to Alaska's famous dog-sled race: "What next for shivering LA? The Iditarod?"

Coastal communities north of San Francisco received their first snow since records began, while ski resorts in the Lake Tahoe region looked forward to a long season thanks to up to two feet of fresh powder snow in the past few days.

Mammoth Mountain, the closest major ski resort to Los Angeles, now has a 12 to 14-ft base.

There was some relief from the cold in Palm Springs — but not much. Yesterday's temperature of 75F was tepid for this time of year.

The forecasters, meanwhile, predict that things will warm up this week. But we've heard that sort of thing before.

Dismay as India starts missile tests

BY MICHAEL BINYON AND ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

George Fernandes at the announcement yesterday

INDIA yesterday test-fired its Agni II ballistic missile, breaking a five-year period of restraint and drawing global expressions of concern.

Britain and the United States voiced worry and regret, giving a warning that the test of the intermediate-range missile would provoke Pakistan into a similar military response.

Sartaj Aziz, the Pakistani Foreign Minister, swiftly confirmed their fears, saying his country would give a "befitting response". He said: "We had decided on restraint. But now Pakistan will have to examine its options how to respond to the Indian tests."

He gave a warning that the missile test could propel the South Asian region into a full-blown arms race. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Pakistan was obliged to maintain a deterrent to guarantee peace and stability in the region, and officials expect a Pakistani test of its medium-range Ghauri missile soon.

The Indian test came 11 months after its controversial nuclear test. The Government called it an "historic feat" and Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister, congratulated the scientists responsible for this "great achievement".

It was said to be a perfect textbook launch, made from the eastern coastal state of Orissa. The missile is officially said to have a range of 1,250 miles, but defence experts say it can reach over 1,500 miles, putting all of Pakistan within its range. George Fernandes, the Indian Defence Minister, said the test had made the Agni II an operational weapons system and no one could dare to threaten India now.

The Foreign Office expressed regret at the test. "We continue to believe that restraint in developing missiles and nuclear weapons is in India's long-term interest," a spokesman said. America also urged India to show restraint in keeping with its declared intention of avoiding a nuclear race with its neighbours.

Mr Fernandes was defiant, however. "This concerns our national security. No one can put pressure on us. We don't need to be told by anybody about restraint."

China, which also comes within range of the Agni II, made no immediate comment on the test.

India said that it had given Pakistan a day's advance warning of the missile test, in keeping with a declaration signed by Mr Vajpayee during his visit to Lahore in February. But Pakistan complained that it was informed only in response to an inquiry by its High Commissioner in Delhi.

Gopalaswami Parthasarathy, India's High Commissioner to Pakistan, said India's missile tests were not a threat to any country. "We have pledged no first use of these weapons . . . and India is committed to its talks with Pakistan," he said.

Pakistan last year tested the Ghauri, with a range of more than 930 miles. And during a military parade last month it also displayed its untested Shaheen missile. Pakistan conducted a series of nuclear tests in response to the Indian explosions last May, but since then both countries have declared a unilateral moratorium. Most defence experts believe that they may conduct more nuclear tests before signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty sometime this year.

RICK WILKING / REUTERS

Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Prime Minister, shows off the cowboy hat he was given at a state dinner in Denver

Beijing cowboy hits the trail

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

SMILING broadly, Zhu Rongji, Prime Minister of China, dutifully donned a cowboy hat and listened to cowboy music when he reached the Rockies on his American tour.

In Denver, he was serenaded by the Bar D Wranglers with such tunes as *Tumbling Tumbleweeds* and *Cool Water*. Then he moved on for a glimpse of another aspect of American popular culture, with a visit to the training gym of the Denver Broncos, the Super Bowl champions of the National Football League. Once more playing the "media savvy" good sport, Mr Zhu tossed a football around for the cameras.

He showed a shaft of sly humour during a technology company tour, inquiring if the white laboratory coat he was given to wear had been made in China. Yes, he was told.

Demonstrators continued to dog Mr Zhu in Colorado, home to a large Tibetan community. Twenty-three people carrying signs that read "China out of Tibet" were detained briefly on a street that had been cleared for security.

Although Mr Zhu's tourist schedule was busy — later yesterday he moved on to Chicago — the mood was less intense than during earlier talks in Washington, where he failed to reach agreement with President Clinton on Chinese entry into the World Trade Organisation. Mr Zhu was not sure Mr Clinton's assessment of Congressional reluctance to admit China was accurate.

He claimed that one unidentified senator had whispered in his ear: "Just wait for about two months. I guarantee we will ratify that agreement."

WORLD IN BRIEF

First American 'from Polynesia'

Los Angeles: Thigh bones found on an island off California could be from North America's oldest skeleton, according to scientists whose findings challenge American Indians' most cherished beliefs about the continent's population (Giles Whittell writes). The bones, stored since being found in 1959, are now said to be from a woman who died about 13,000 years ago — 1,400 years earlier than first thought. The difference is crucial, suggesting the New World's first human beings may have come not by foot from Siberia, but by boat, possibly from Polynesia.

"She may be the earliest inhabitant we have discovered," John Johnson of Santa Barbara Museum said after a paper was presented on Arlington Springs Woman, outlining retesting using the latest DNA and radiocarbon dating methods. If the date is correct, she would have lived when the mainland was roamed by woolly mammoths and largely covered by glaciers.

Timor's bishop attacked

Jakarta: Bishop Carlos Belo, the East Timorese spiritual leader and Nobel laureate, escaped injury when the convoy he was travelling in was attacked by a pro-Indonesian militia group (Patricia Nunan writes). The bishop was returning to the East Timorese capital of Dili after celebrating Mass at the site of a massacre that happened on Tuesday in Liquisa, 18 miles west of here, when about 30 militia members threw stones and steel pipes at the convoy.

Israeli troops pull out

Jerusalem: Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, announced amid growing public pressure that Israel will reduce its military presence in southern Lebanon (Ross Dunn writes). He said that 80 per cent of Israeli army posts in southern Lebanon have been transferred to allies in the unofficial South Lebanon Army and more would be handed over this month. That would enable more Israeli troops to leave the self-declared security zone, established in 1985 to prevent cross-border attacks.

Child-killing charge

Vienna: Austria's Ministry of Justice has indicted Dr Heinrich Gross, 84, as an accessory to the murder of five children deemed to be handicapped under Hitler's euthanasia programme (Nigel Glass writes). His lawyer, Nikolaus Lehner, said that he was considering an appeal. The failure to charge Dr Gross, who headed the former Vienna Am Spielgrund mental hospital where 700 children were murdered, had scandalised those Austrians who say the country is unwilling to face its Nazi past.

German spared stoning in Iran

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A GERMAN engineer sentenced death by stoning has been released on bail after Bonn intervened with Iran.

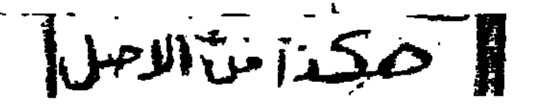
Helmut Hofer, 57, of Hamburg, was arrested by the Iranian authorities in 1997 after being accused of having sexual intercourse with an Iranian medical student. He was given the toughest possible sentence for adultery — stoning — and relations between Iran and Germany plunged.

Hofer will be released on bail of £100,000, but he is obliged to stay in Iran until the sentence is formally quashed. The woman involved was sentenced to 90 lashes.

Bobo Hombach, adviser to Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, who has been conducting the negotiations with Iran, made plain in Tehran at the weekend that Hofer's release would help to end Iran's isolation: President Khatami accepted an invitation to visit Germany.

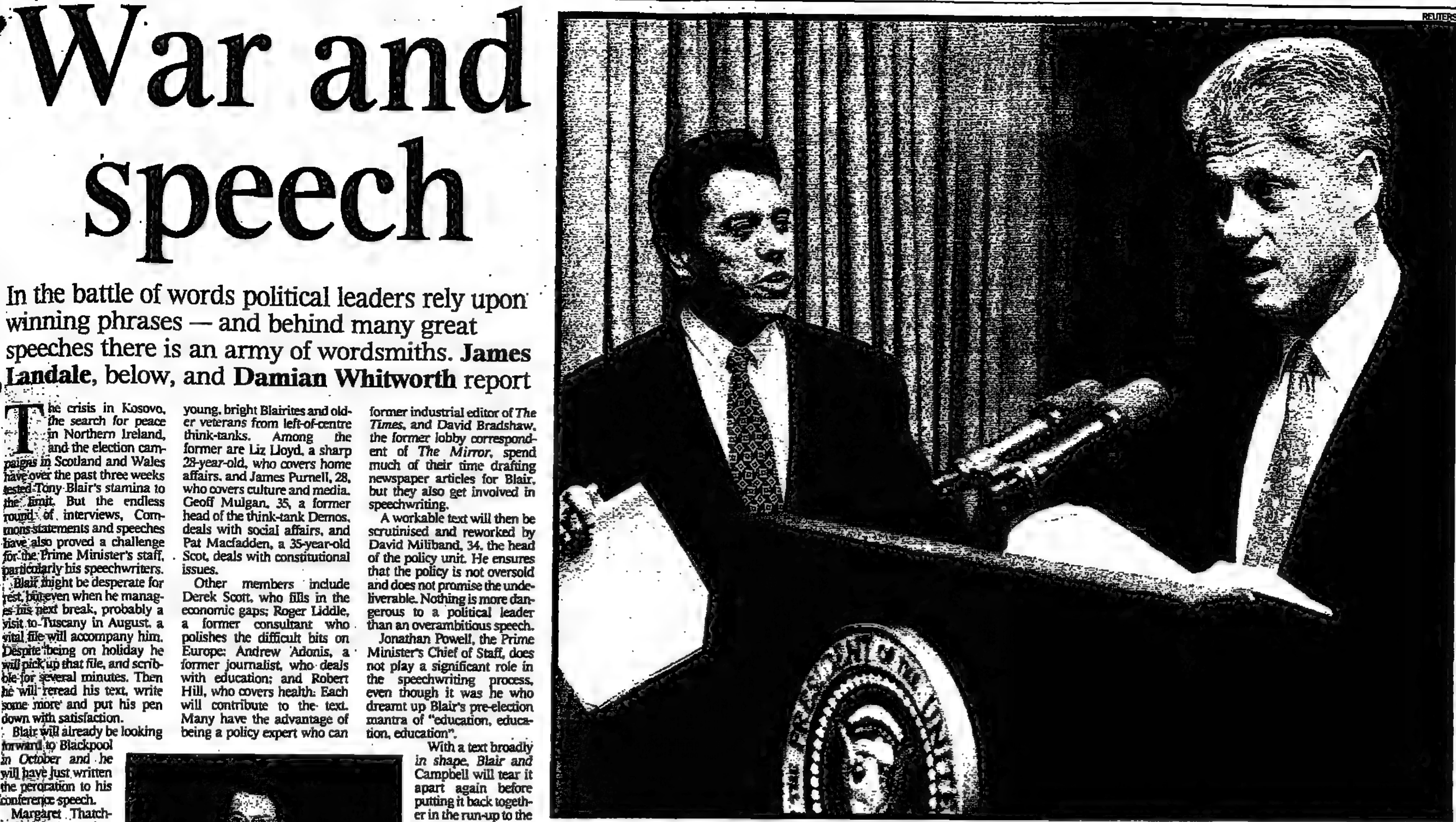
The stoning case took on several bizarre twists. Hofer denied that he did more than kiss the student. The 28-year-old woman was obliged to undergo medical tests to establish her virginity. Three gynaecologists found she was a virgin; a fourth doctor — the one believed by the clerical court — said she was not.

The Hofer investigation coincided with the trial in Germany of a group of assassins in the pay of the Iranian secret service. Their sentencing led to a European diplomatic boycott of Iran.



War and speech

In the battle of words political leaders rely upon winning phrases — and behind many great speeches there is an army of wordsmiths. **James Landale**, below, and **Damian Whitworth** report



The crisis in Kosovo, the search for peace in Northern Ireland, and the election campaigns in Scotland and Wales have over the past three weeks tested Tony Blair's stamina to the limit. But the endless round of interviews, Commons statements and speeches have also proved a challenge for the Prime Minister's staff, particularly his speechwriters.

Blair might be desperate for rest, but even when he manages his next break, probably a visit to Tuscany in August, a vital file will accompany him. Despite being on holiday he will pick up that file, and scribble for several minutes. Then he will reread his text, write some more and put his pen down with satisfaction.

Blair will already be looking forward to Blackpool in October and he will have just written the peroration to his conference speech.

Margaret Thatcher had her speeches written by the late Sir Ronald Millar, the man who told us that the lady was not for turning. President Clinton has a bunch of bright young things who churn out speeches. But Blair does more than deliver his speeches; he likes to write them as well. Even with run-of-the-mill speeches, which have largely been drafted by his staff, Blair will almost always rewrite chunks if he has the time. Not only does this make it easier for him to deliver, it also gives him complete control over the words.

The genesis of any Blair speech is almost always a bundle of handwritten notes. For all his excitement about the Internet, he is still a computerphobe who prefers to write in longhand. The notes set out the structure of the speech, with broad themes and key phrases. Alastair Campbell, Blair's official spokesman, then gets involved. Campbell is a key player in the drafting process, often coining the right phrase which articulates the theme and ultimately shapes the headline. He takes the notes and throws them at the Downing Street policy unit to put some flesh on the bones.

For a major conference speech, each of the policy wonks will draft sections covering their areas of expertise. In more regular and policy-specific speeches, they might write much of the initial draft. The policy unit is a mixture of young, bright Blairites and older veterans from left-of-centre think-tanks. Among the former are Liz Lloyd, a sharp 28-year-old, who covers home affairs, and James Purnell, 28, who covers culture and media. Geoff Mulgan, 35, a former head of the think-tank Demos, deals with social affairs, and Pat Macfadden, a 35-year-old Scot, deals with constitutional issues.

Other members include Derek Scott, who fills in the economic gaps; Roger Liddle, a former consultant who polishes the difficult bits on Europe; Andrew Adonis, a former journalist, who deals with education; and Robert Hill, who covers health. Each will contribute to the text. Many have the advantage of being a policy expert who can write. Often the two skills do not go hand in hand.

Outsiders from academia, industry and the voluntary sector might be asked to provide a perspective. If the speech is non-partisan, some Civil Service input might be sought. A strength is that the speechwriters are also the policymakers, and a different mix of people can be used for each speech. This provides a flexibility and a proximity to day-to-day politics that a separate speechwriting unit would lack.

The man who has the difficult job of putting the various bits together is Peter Hyman, 30, the policy unit's strategic adviser. Hyman, who trained as a journalist, will start knocking a text into shape, often with the help of Campbell.

The two former journalists who head Downing Street's strategic communications unit might get involved at this point. Philip Bassett, the former industrial editor of *The Times*, and David Bradshaw, the former lobby correspondent of *The Mirror*, spend much of their time drafting newspaper articles for Blair, but they also get involved in speechwriting.

A workable text will then be scrutinised and reworked by David Miliband, 34, the head of the policy unit. He ensures that the policy is not oversold and does not promise the undeliverable. Nothing is more dangerous to a political leader than an overambitious speech.

Jonathan Powell, the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff, does not play a significant role in the speechwriting process, even though it was he who dreamt up Blair's pre-election mantra of "education, education, education".

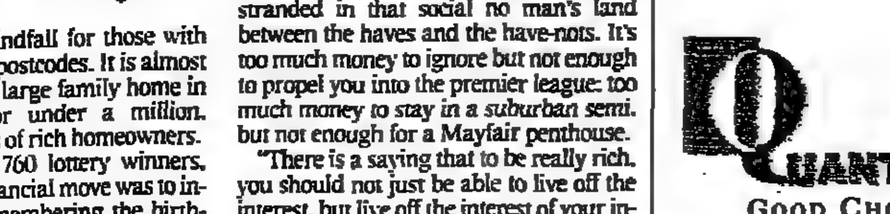
With a text broadly in shape, Blair and Campbell will tear it apart again before putting it back together in the run-up to the party conference.

Brainstorming sessions will be held to come up with a few jokes. But as one Downing Street source says, "policy wonks are not that good at jokes", so comics are occasionally asked to suggest some gags. Roy Hudd, of BBC Radio's *The News Huddlines*, once contributed some, but his jokes were often so bawdy that Blair offloaded most to John Prescott. Rory Bremner has always denied writing jokes for Blair. Certainly, a faxed request from Jonathan Powell in 1996 for jokes was rejected. But Downing Street insiders claim the fax was sent only because Bremner had given jokes before.

Blair does not deliver one-liners with ease, and often a joke is cut. What he wants in a speech is an argument. If there is no clear logic, he is prepared to rip up a speech that has been worked on for weeks and rewrite it completely. "Basically, Tony leads," says one source. "He will have a strong sense of what he wants to say, what the issues are and what the speech must achieve. There is a long process, but the speech is what Tony wants."

But most of these words are soon forgotten. Who remembers Blair's promise to make Britain a "beacon to the world" in September 1997? Or "the Giving Age" and "the Young Country"? Whatever happened to the "Stakeholder Society"? What, indeed.

Tony Blair may completely rewrite a speech



IN SEARCH OF THE PERFECT LINE

Comic cut: Rory Bremner | Policy: David Miliband | Pressman: Philip Bassett | Chief: Alastair Campbell | Bawdy lines: Roy Hudd

His master's voice: leading White House speechwriter Michael Waldman, left, says that he writes as if he were inside President Clinton's head

President Clinton shuffled his notes, looked into the camera and began reading from the Autocue. "My fellow Americans," he began, and for 13 minutes he explained how attacking Serbia was "advancing the cause of peace". It may not have had quite the effect of Franklin Roosevelt's wartime call for the US to be the "arsenal of democracy", to which 76 per cent of Americans tuned their radios. And it is hardly likely to go down in history alongside Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, a speech that Clinton can recite by heart, but these were his words to his people at a time of national importance.

Or were they his words? He certainly spoke them. But did he think of them? Of all Presidents this century, Clinton is one of the most gifted speakers, able to talk fluently off the cuff for an hour, or engage in a spirited debate on the meaning of the word "is".

Once, when the wrong text was fed into the Teleprompter, he winged the first seven minutes of an address to Congress without anyone noticing. But he has to deliver up to 600 speeches a year, from greetings to Scout groups in the Rose Garden to pronouncements on welfare reform. And with cameras recording every one, this most telegenic of politicians is not going to be caught for words. So he has others to help him to come up with a few hundred thousand of them.

There have always been presidential speechwriters. Even George Washington had Alexander Hamilton to scratch stuff out for him. But speechmaking became crucial only after Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson established the White House as the "bully pulpit", from which they wrested more power through regular addresses to the nation and Congress, articulating their agendas.

In the second half of the century aides started to write more and more of their boss's speeches. Confronted with the television age, Richard Nixon was the first President to hire a special cohort of scribblers.

Today, in the Old Executive Office Building across the street from the White House, a team of speechwriters slaves away in what amounts to a word factory. They are clever young things who must be equally proficient turning Treasury gobbledegook into intelligible soundbites or polishing a joke so that the President doesn't fall flat on his face at a gala dinner.

"It's enjoyable but it's tiring. It's not a lifetime's job. It's a young person's sport: you burn out," says Michael Waldman, the 38-year-old chief speechwriter. He has been at Clinton's side since 1992 as an adviser and writer and is expected to leave the White House imminently to tend the tendonitis in his wrists caused by constant battering at a word processor — and to get a life after four years full-time on the speechwriting beat.

His team of six includes June Shih, 26, a Harvard graduate who was poached from Hillary Clinton's office, and Jeffrey Shesol, 29, who was hired after the President read a book that he had written about the presidency.

Waldman says he sees little of himself in a recently published novel about a chief speechwriter whose girlfriend, a White House aide, has an affair with the President. *Face Time*, written by Erik Tarloff, who is married to a former White House aide and had himself written jokes for Clinton, depicted speechwriters as fêted figures on the Washington social scene. This is denied by the present bunch. "I don't get invited to all those parties," says Waldman. But he does have more "face time" with the President than many previous speechwriters. In the Reagan and Bush White Houses, the writers were seen as separate from those making policy. But because Waldman came to speechwriting from policy wonkery, he has regular access to Clinton. This is vital, he says, not just for understanding what needs to be articulated, but also for knowing how it needs to be said.

"It has to capture his voice and his views and way of looking at things. It has to have the cadences and the mental processes of the person you are writing for." To capture their master's voice, Waldman and his gang will hang on Clinton's every word and often incorporate phrases that he uses in conversation into their texts. "If it's too ornate, he tends to cross out the rhetoric and just wants to tell the story," says Waldman. Often what he has been given by his scribes is treated as a signature tune around which he improvises. "He's a jazz improviser who riffs all over the place," says Jeremy Rosner, an early Clinton speechwriter.

Although he has produced few phrases that will live beyond his presidency, most agree with Waldman that Clinton is "still the best speechwriter in the White House".

Pity the poor millionaire

You've got to be really rich to have status, says Anjana Ahuja

You can't move for millionaires these days. Having a seven-figure bank balance is no longer the preserve of the upper classes who inherit, and super-wealthy supermarket dynasties. You are just as likely to bump into rude pop stars, unshaven authors, dim footballers, brash media folk and scruffy Internet nerds as you sip Bollinger, sup on Beluga and stop off in Biarritz.

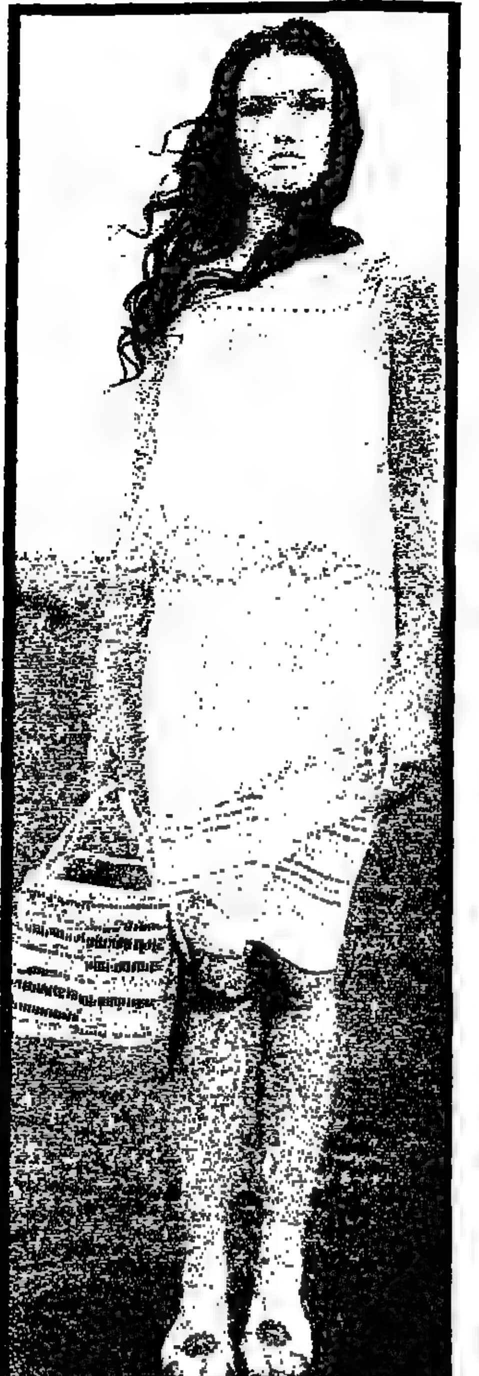
But why has being a millionaire lost its kudos? The magic six noughts no longer mean you are officially rich, since the entry fee to the *Sunday Times Rich List* of the 1,000 wealthiest people in Britain is a cool £21 million. (The Spice Girls, worth £15 million apiece, don't make it.) Another sobering thought is that the fortune of Bill Gates, the richest man on the planet, has brought a paper windfall for those with houses in desirable postcodes. It is almost impossible to bag a large family home in Central London for under a million, which makes for lots of rich homeowners.

There are about 760 lottery winners, whose shrewdest financial move was to invest a pound in remembering the birthdays of their granny/wife/son/boss/dog. And what do they do with their money? If you're Karl Crompton, who scooped £11 million in 1996, you waste your days racing around in Ferraris and Ducatis, overtaken by worries about how to keep it. There is the tax to get stressed about. And new friendships are tarnished with *suspicion*.

Perhaps the most uncool thing about making a million is that it leaves you stranded in that social no man's land between the haves and the have-nots. It's too much money to ignore but not enough to propel you into the premier league: too much money to stay in a suburban semi, but not enough for a Mayfair penthouse.

"There is a saying that to be really rich, you should not just be able to live off the interest, but live off the interest of your interest," says Dr Dorothy Rowe, author of *The Real Meaning of Money* (HarperCollins, £7.99). "And, due to inflation, a million is not what it used to be [£1 million in the 1950s is equivalent to £14 million to-

How to be an urban peasant









Simple shapes in linen, cheesecloth and rosebud prints give a rustic look that you can wear in the city, says Fashion Editor **Lisa Armstrong**

Ruffled, sprigged and laced into the kind of perfectly buffed walking boots that Tess of the d'Urbervilles might have opted for — had she been contemplating popping into Knightsbridge for a spot of lunch in Daphne's — the personifications of the new rural idyll tramped down the catwalk by the score.

The tousled, windblown hair that would have been the norm 100 years ago has been superseded by this season's super-straight, super-glossy extensions; the freckled, weather-beaten skin replaced by a silky, Caribbean tan (it tends to make for a better picture when those delicate, barely there peasant tops slip casually off a shoulder) and the widespread air of sorely exploited misery ditched in favour of a Harvey Nichols charge card. You get the idea. Rustic is In — which is interesting because the other big In is Urban.

For those who mourn the waning of last season's coquettish prettiness, this is good news. Rustic is simply prettiness presented in a more rugged way — think embroidered linens rather than silks; cheesecloth instead of chiffon; and tiny Tanna lawn rosebud prints as opposed to full-blown roses. For those who usually adhere strictly to Urban, it's worth considering sneaking the occasional print into the scenario; these new seedlings are delicate without being fey, and at their best worn as a crisp shirt with jeans or something equally no-nonsense.

There is something wholesome, earthy and yet (this being the late Nineties) marvellously manicured about this new heroine. She is full of contradictions, not without her absurdities — in other words, she's really very likeable.

FAR LEFT: camisole, £122, by Boyd, from Harrods (0171-730 1234): skirt, £89.95, by Karen Millen nationwide (07662 664 032); mules, £24.99, River Island; bag, £45, from Fenwick, 63 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161)

SECOND LEFT: top, £55, skirt, £89, by Nitya, 118 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-495 6337); flip-flops, £19.99, by River Island nationwide (0181-991 4500); bag, £75, from Fenwick, as before; headscarf, £2.75, from Liberty, 214 Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 1234)

MAIN PICTURE: skirt, £166, by Betty Jackson, 311 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-589 7884); camisole, £26, by Warehouse nationwide (0171-278 3491); shirt, £38, from Ming Mang, 182 Battersea Park Road, SW11 (0171-498 3233); thongs, £85.50, by K Jaques for Russell & Bromley, 24/25 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 6903); bag, £149, by Jamin Puech, from Fenwick, as before

ABOVE: drawstring dress, £45, by Warehouse, as before; daisy flip-flops, £195, by Jimmy Choo, 20 Motcomb Street, SW1 (0171-235 0242); raffia bag, £65, from Fenwick, as before

Photographer: KEVIN FOORD; Stylist: Deborah Brett; Hair: Kylie Crompton at Jo Hansford using Jo Hansford products; Make-up: Alex Babsky using Estée Lauder; Model: Luka at Select

STYLE FILE

by Deborah Brett

LUCINDA CHAMBERS
Fashion director at *Vogue* and British stylist of the year

What is your personal style?
Eclectic — because there is so much I love that I just can't stick to one look. I love to mix things up so I suppose that I'm seen as quite a hippy, but it does make life go with a swing. I never wear black — it's just not life-enhancing, and I never could manage looking smart.

If you could go back to any century, which would it be?
I would never want to go back to another time. People really suffered for fashion, they had no choice; instead, looks were dictated. For the first time fashion is utterly liberated. You can choose to be a boho hippy or a severe minimalist — the only problem is deciding who you want to be.

What is your favourite shop?
Cath Kidston in Notting Hill, West London — because we're both rose freaks and she has a fantastic mix of fashion and furniture.

Who is your style icon?
Simon, my husband. I find his disinterest in fashion and style to be marvellously liberating.

What three people, dead or alive, would you like to have dinner with?
St Philip Neri, a 16th-century priest who was known to play incredibly funny practical jokes as well as levitating while praying; Franz Schubert because of his incredible musical talent and his friends all loved him; and Isabella Bird, the Victorian traveller — she must have some great adventure stories.

What can you not leave the house without?
At the moment it's my Comme des Garçons perfume. It smells of Christmas and I try desperately to use it sparingly because it is so incredibly expensive.

What book are you reading at the moment?
Every Man for Himself by Beryl Bainbridge. When I like an author I tend to read everything that they have written. I really enjoy Bainbridge's style — it is evocative as well as spare.

What do you take on trips to make life easier?
A good book, pictures of my family and a big throw for when it gets cold on aircraft.

What is your style motto?
Be true to yourself.





Lucinda Chambers and her son. "I'm seen as a hippy," she says

COMPETITION THE TIMES



WIN A COTTAGE IN CORNWALL

● Today *The Times*, in association with the Virgin *One* account, offers readers the chance to win a lovely cottage in the typical Cornish village of Perranwell Station. Smithy Cottage, with its two bedrooms and pretty garden, is the ideal holiday home. Close to Truro and an 18-hole golf course, our prize cottage will provide the lucky winner with the perfect place from which to watch the eclipse of the sun on August 11.

HOW TO ENTER Collect 19 *Times* tokens and two tokens from *The Sunday Times* and attach them to an entry form which will appear again tomorrow. Tokens will appear up to April 18 and a bonus token will be published on Friday. The winner will be chosen at random from all entries received by Friday, April 30, 1999. Normal Times Newspapers prize draw rules apply

THE TIMES WIN A COTTAGE TOKEN 19

one account

CHANGING TIMES

The high-class matchmaker

Concetta Lanciaux has been instrumental in bringing some of fashion's biggest names to the world's attention, and has brokered many successful business 'marriages' between designers and couture houses

Lisa Armstrong
FASHION EDITOR

Strictly in the line of duty, Concetta Lanciaux has scaled Manhattan lofts, teetered across cobbled palazzo courtyards, and shivered in disused Shoreditch warehouses waiting for endless fashion happenings to commence. In her ceaseless search for the next big thing in fashion, no nascent name has been left uninvestigated, no radical new concept unexamined, no dilapidated studio unvisited.

Not once has her melon-slice of a smile slipped or the infectious twinkle in her eyes dimmed, not even when designers have chosen to present their collections in the dark, underground, ad nauseam, and for that alone she deserves a medal. Since joining Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy, the world's largest luxury goods conglomerate nine years ago, she has become its talent scout, reporting directly to Bernard Arnault, LVMH's somewhat enigmatic, omnipotent MD, for whom she also worked when he was running Financière Agache, a textile company. When she followed him to LVMH it was on the understanding that there would be a "little restructuring", which, in the light of the revolution that followed, turned out to be an understatement.

Besides an indefatigable appetite for watching a limitless supply of catwalk videos and an ability to listen patiently while designers explain why the world needs their one-legged trousers, her job requires considerable business acumen. She describes herself as "a high-class matchmaker — you introduce designers to the company you think best suits them and arrange a dinner for them with the MDs", but you don't broker successful industrial marriages as she has done without having an acute understanding of the businesses involved.

That the unions are successful is clear, although inevitably there are rumours to the contrary. John Galliano, fashion's blue-eyed boy, whom Lanciaux was instrumental in bringing to Dior, is whispered by some to be in danger of losing his creative edge, and the house is thought to be struggling commercially — which, naturally, she denies. "You may not see women wearing Dior in the street, but it's not made for walking. It's for ladies who limo. Sales are up 40 per cent since John joined. We are all very happy." As indeed they should be: in column inches alone, Dior is extremely wealthy.

For someone who has been instrumental in bringing some of fashion's biggest names to the world's attention and wields the equivalent power of a Louis B. Mayer or a Sam Goldwyn when it comes to creating stars, she is remarkably unassuming and approachable. Small, with Latin curves as opposed to fashionable planes, among the tight-lipped, studiously stylised front-row personae, she passes unrecognised by all but a few industry insiders. Yet it was she who helped to sign up not just the two Brits (Alexander McQueen at Givenchy, John Galliano at Dior, who created such a publicity coup for Arnault) but the three New Yorkers — Michael Kors at Celine, Marc Jacobs at Louis Vuitton and Narciso Rodriguez at Loewe — who have helped to blow the dust off three musty established houses by importing their individual interpretations of sleek, wearable American sportswear to Paris.

When you consider the sums involved, the market fluctuations that can be triggered by a duff review and the infamous egos, it is, one might imagine, the job from hell. Yet Lanciaux is a model of serenity. Despite the occasional cosy lunch with each of her protégés, she insists that "I am not there to act as their nanny", adding mischievously that "the company directors [whom she also recruits] do that. Anyway, if you do your homework well, you minimise the risks. The most important thing is to understand the company that you are recruiting for and to get to know the designers' personalities. When I was looking at Michael Kors for Celine, I realised they were compatible in so many ways. Michael had a roughed-up, casual way of doing chic, which was exactly what Celine had stood for in its heyday. He was passionate about quality fabrics but had a modern sensibility about glamour; he made it look nonchalant which is what Celine needed."

The Marc Jacobs courtship lasted much longer, "but when I visited his studio in SoHo in New York, I was so struck by how beautiful it was. He has very refined taste and very clear ideas about what he wants to do. At the end of the day we're looking for designers who can be autonomous."

None of the appointments has been without controversy. Among nationalists there was indignation at seeing venerated French houses fall into the creative directorships of foreigners. Elsewhere there is consternation at Arnault's apparent determination to build an internationally homogeneous empire — a fear that his current battle to gain control of Gucci and ensuing court case has done nothing to assuage. Tom Ford, the creative wizard largely responsible for the company's meteoric revival, is so unimpressed by Arnault's tactics that he has threatened to leave Gucci if Arnault wins. Lanciaux takes a predictably reassuring view. "There is nothing further from our minds than creating a bland global megabrand. The whole point is to build a strong identity for each house while providing them with a synergy [a favourite word] and an infrastructure that make them viable businesses. "As for Tom, he is so much part of Gucci and it is so much part of him that I'd be surprised if he did leave."

You can see why this is the kind of job that careers officers might describe as "absorbing". Lanciaux cheerfully admits to being a workaholic; she squeezed this interview in at 11pm in a hotel bar in Paris between a business dinner and, one hopes, a few hours' synergy with her husband, who's in insurance, or her son, who's in fashion, and possibly getting 40 winks before the next round of shows and deals. Shopping trips inevitably turn into market research. She now dresses in Givenchy diffusion and is thinking of branching out into Celine, and cannot pick up a copy of *Vogue* without making copious notes. No wonder she reads Socrates to relax.

It was not meant to be thus. She was encouraged by her mother to aim for a serious job — an unusual ambition for a woman from Foggia, in southern Italy, 50 years ago. One sister became a High Court judge, the other a doctor. Lanciaux herself taught Latin and Greek to "rich high school kids" in her school holidays until she had saved the money to come to London, where she stayed long enough to acquire flawless English and a taste for Ballantyne cashmere. After a stint writing film scripts and a book entitled *The Art of Poetics*, she became Professor of Film Studies at Pittsburgh University, then took a business degree. In 1985 she went to work for Arnault. "I love my work because it gives me the chance to be creative and use my business knowledge," she says.

To this end, all altruistic gestures are grounded in commercial reality; the courses she has helped to set up in various French fashion colleges on behalf of LVMH have become fertile recruiting ground for some of the company's 40,000 employees. The search for more designers to take LVMH into the next millennium continues, and if she has not yet signed up a woman, it is not for want of trying. "Jil Sander already had her own big company," she says wistfully. But she is keeping an eye on a newcomer, Sharon Waschob, as she is on Olivier Theyskens, Clements Ribeiro, Isabelle Ballieu. "I get such pleasure from seeing artists succeed," she says, "because when business and creativity get together successfully there's no limit to what you can achieve."

SIMON WALKER



Concetta Lanciaux: "When business and creativity get together successfully there's no limit to what you can achieve"

COURTED BY CONCETTA









From left: Michael Kors, Celine; Alexander McQueen, Givenchy; Marc Jacobs, Louis Vuitton; John Galliano, Dior; Narciso Rodriguez, Loewe

TOMORROW
Body and Mind — The healing power of pets

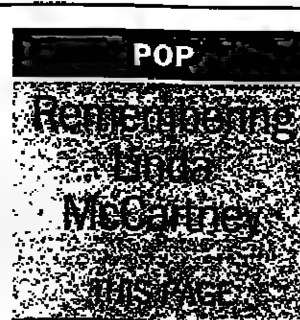
Pearls for baby girls

FASHION DIARY
By Lisa Armstrong

CHRISTENING presents are trickier than most since the pressure to give something enduring comes at a time when it's impossible to gauge what kind of personality you're aiming to please. Christianne Douglas, who has been designing all kinds of tempting new ways to wear pearls, has come up with a brilliant solution. Her Birthstone Collection comprises delicate seed-pearl necklaces decorated with the appropriate precious or semi-precious stone. And because most people are rarely happy with their designated stones (unless they are Ariens, who get diamonds), Christianne has uncovered some options during her meticulous research. Librans can now go for lapis lazuli as well as opals; Taureans can opt for corals or emeralds; Cancerians for moonstones or rubies. Prices range from £75 to £200. The Coleman Douglas range of delicate necklaces, bracelets and earrings is sold at Liberty and Harrods. For more information ring Coleman Douglas Pearls, 0171-373 3369, or look them up on pearls@btinternet.com

shows won't run an hour and a half late — but the BBC's Fashion Week Live event, which runs from April 22 to 25 at Wembley Conference Centre, should offer a taste of what catwalk shows are about. Among the designers taking their wares to Wembley are Ben di Lisi, Antoni and Alison, and Pearce Fionda, as well as the winners of the 1998 British Fashion Awards, who will stage a compilation presentation. Other designers who will have stands include Georgina von Etzdorf, Idol, Neisha Crosland, Orla Kiely, Violet and Favourbrook. Lowri Turner, of *Looking Good* fame, will dispense beauty and fashion tips, together with her make-up artist from the TV programme, John Gustafson. There will also be free hair makeovers from the Salon Selectives stylists, live music, a modelling competition, with a first prize of a contract with Select agency. In anticipation of thousands of transformed visitors, the British Heart Foundation will be collecting old clothes. Tickets, £15 each, are available on the door or from the hotline, 0870-732 2020. The first 100 *Times* readers to call that





THE TIMES ARTS



This week in THE TIMES



■ DANCE

East/West fusion: Taiwan's Cloud Gate Dance Theatre comes to Sadler's Wells
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ MUSIC

Neville Marriner celebrates his 75th birthday with a gala in the Festival Hall
CONCERT: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



■ FILM

Jeremy Northam is the not so unblemished spouse in Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: At the Comedy Sheila Gish and Rachel Weisz co-star in Tennessee Williams's *Suddenly Last Summer*. Opens Wednesday

Songs for Linda

Linda McCartney's most widely respected work was honoured at the Albert Hall on Saturday before any of her famous friends took a bow. Projected on to the back of the stage throughout this spangly celebration of her life were examples of her distinguished photographic endeavours, an eloquent legacy for a woman villified for her individuality by those who thought Beatle wives should seldom be seen and never heard.

Linda's soulmate Chrissie Hynde gathered with a dozen artists to send a celebrity bouquet to mark the first anniversary of her passing, with the proceeds earmarked for Carla

POP
A Concert for Linda McCartney
Albert Hall

Lane's Animaline charity. The sentiment was warmly endorsed but, as the evening was to show, not so easy to articulate. Star turns are dab hands at tribute shows which simply call for the reinterpretation of a body of music. Without such a catalogue at their disposal, how might they express their love and respect, short of breaking open the veggie bangers for a celebrity grill-fest?

The best answer was to conjure songs that offered some lyrical resonance with Linda's public and private personae. So after the first of host Eddie Izzard's what-am-I-doing-here links, Hynde, still feisty at 47, opened with her admirable Pretenders on *Message Of Love*. Johnny Marr joined them, drily inviting us to sing along with the Smiths' *Meat Is Murder*.

Lynden David Hall tiptoed through *Here, There And Everywhere* but found his own space with *Abraham, Martin And John*. Des'ree contributed a common or garden *Blackbird* before teaming with the increasingly ubiquitous Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

Sinead O'Connor's erratic submission included her tribute song to Princess Diana, and while one thought she may have wandered in from the wrong tribute, there was a roundabout poignancy in the juxtaposition with McCartney, since both women were the targets of tabloid bile in life, yet were never mentioned without the sobriquet "brave" in death.

Neil Finn lent renewed grace with *She Goes On* and *Don't Dream It's Over*, even if an audience of infrequent concertgoers were struggling to remember who he might be. They were soon to have their moment of furry-dice soul with Heather Small. Tom Jones upped the ante with his customary indomitable magnetism, notably with *She's A Woman*. Marianne Faithfull exuded weatherbeaten splendour, joined by Marr for a charming *As Tears Go By*.

Elvis Costello provided the night's most open-hearted testimonial with his reminiscence of Linda's kind attentions while he was working with Paul some years ago. His touching set included one of those collaborations, *That Day Is Done*. But the mood moved up two gears once George Michael breezed on. He underlined his immense charisma and warmth of spirit during painstaking readings of *Eleanor Rigby* and *The Long And Winding Road*, before leading the party on *Faith*.

The appearance of a moist-eyed Paul was the final emotional endorsement: before we shambled through an inevitable *Let It Be*, he had found the fortitude to play *All My Loving* and *Lonesome Town*, the Ricky Nelson chestnut that he and Linda had loved thousands of miles apart as teenagers, years before they became Mr and Mrs Macca.

PAUL SEXTON



Chrissie Hynde and Paul McCartney share a mike at the Albert Hall during Saturday's tribute to Linda McCartney

Glowering glamour



It started with the frankly unpromising spectacle of one man and his bongos. But by the end of Grace Jones's show, we had been treated to a hugely entertaining display of kitsch exhibitionism that was part erotic cabaret, part exotic fashion show.

It also helped that both artist and venue were perfectly suited bedfellows. HQ is a new, sumptuously furnished venue (capacity 550) situated in the same complex as the Hot Press Hall Of Fame — a multimedia museum of Irish rock and pop memorabilia which Jones launched earlier in the week. The close proximity of the venue's tables and chairs to the stage gave Jones the intimacy she needed.

When our friend had finished his bongo solo, he was joined on stage by a backing singer whose vocal contributions could be described as nominal but who would later become a valuable sparring partner for the leading lady.

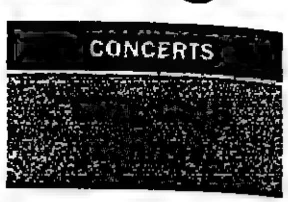
After a backing tape of *I'm Not Perfect (But I'm Perfect For You)* had wound to a close, Jones made her entrance, with a suitably theatrical flourish, flailing about on the on-stage staircase in a coal-black gown and breathtakingly bizarre Philip Treacey hat that made her look like Ming the Merciless from Flash Gordon. Haughty but nice. It was to be the first of many glorious guises.

Initially, it was a bit disappointing to realise that, bar the bongos, all the music would be on backing tapes — and fairly muddled-sounding ones at that — especially when one considers that Jones's records feature, in Sly & Robbie and Wally Badarou, some of the finest session musicians in the business. In fact, what musical instruments she did use — an accordion for *La Vie En Rose*, an electric guitar for *Warm Leatherette* — were essentially props, almost like an extension of her costumes. But what costumes!: for *Pull Up To The Bumper*, she was a salacious soldier in Roman army battlegear — with added protruding boob tube. Cue the first of many flirtatious forays into the audience. For *My Jamaican Guy*, she wore a tassled Tonto jacket and straggly wig. She followed this with an outfit that looked, not least because of the extravagant face mask, like a cross-pollination of *Phantom of the Opera* and *Batman*.

One wondered not so much "what planet is she on?" but "what planet is she from?". For Jones is a genuine enigma: her aura is a puzzling paradox, encompassing both icy, androidal aloofness and sultry, supermodel sex appeal. Catwoman glower meets catwalk glamour. And despite the dud films and unreleased albums, she remains, on this evidence, a great performer and a true star.

NICK KELLY

Touched by an angel's wings



The Royal Philharmonic has not had an easy time over the past few years, but under its music director Daniele Gatti, it has developed again into a first-rate ensemble. The opulence of the string department has been much commented upon, and in a programme of Brahms and Berg on Thursday night this was indeed one of the outstanding qualities.

In Brahms's Variations on a Theme by Haydn, the brilliantly conceived transformations of the material flashed by like a colourful pageant, each richly painted tableau seizing the attention in turn.

The subtitle of Alban Berg's Violin Concerto, "To the Memory of an Angel", was given unusual prominence in the programme, but not inappropriately. The "angel" in question was Manon Gropius, daughter of Alma Mahler, and any successful performance of the work has to remind us that it is effectively a requiem for the 18-year-old girl.

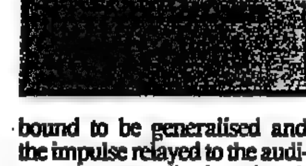
With Mark Kaplan the eloquent soloist and Gatti conducting empathetically from memory, the subtext of the concerto emerged with graphic immediacy. The first of the two sections, a musical portrait of the girl, was a touchingly tender evocation, complete with folk and waltz elements. The second section, expressing anger at her fate, gained poignancy from lucid textures, achieving a subtle tension between the emotional impulses.

Berg's concerto was written at white heat and it was of the first movement of Brahms's Third Symphony that the contemporary critic Hanslick wrote: "It seems to have been created in the flush of an inspired hour." Rarely has that inspiration been more thrillingly recreated than in Gatti's account. If the opening three-chord motto lacked military precision, it was only because all Gatti's forces were straining at the leash. Released, they swept through the opening pages with unbridled passion.

There was room for inward reflection too, both in the second subject material here and in the gentler middle movements. But the barely suppressed emotion of the start of the finale heralded a stormy outburst, which was sustained until the closing, tranquil bars. If Brahms's Third expresses the storms of life, it is an apt metaphor for the vicissitudes of the RPO. It did it proud.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Mild to a fault



Iona Brown probably doesn't need a precedent. But her progress from violinist to conductor, by way of the front desk of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, cannot have been made any harder by the fact that Sir Neville Marriner went that way before her. It is unlikely, however, even now that she has her own orchestra in Denmark, that she will drop the violin and devote herself exclusively to conducting.

At work with the Hallé Orchestra in the Bridgewater Hall, although she didn't play a single note, she was still the instrumentalist. Her conducting is more a matter of encouragement than of dominance from a great height. This does not mean that there was anything directionless about her Mozart or her Beethoven. She communicates her own musical values, however discreetly.

The weakness in this approach, which is reflected in the gently undulating movements of her baton, is rhythmic. If 60 musicians are left to sense where the downbeat is, rather than have it vividly imposed on them, rhythms are bound to be generalised and the impulse relayed to the audience correspondingly reduced.

At crucial points like the opening of the Allegro spiritoso of Mozart's *Linz Symphony* or the main theme of the Allegro con brio of Beethoven's *Eroica*, where there ought to be the drive to sustain a whole movement, the rhythms lacked propulsion. In both works, however, the conductor inspired attractive playing from an orchestra that clearly had faith in her direction.

Brown was at her best in Britten's *Les Illuminations*, where she got the strings to play not only idiomatically but also with the brilliance of a virtuoso ensemble. The soloist, Lynne Dawson, was secure enough to hold back nothing of her seemingly inexhaustible colour resources. Rimbaud's words were not clear but the sound was ravishing.

GERALD LARNER

Brits chomp on the Apple

THEATRE: Broadway has never been so bustling with British talent, says **Matt Wolf**, and that success seems likely to translate into Tony awards

DONALD COOPER



Hats off to Britain: Dame Judi Dench, as Esme in David Hare's Amy's View, is Broadway's hottest box-office draw, eclipsing even the attractions of Nicole Kidman in the nude

The British invasion of Broadway is as time-honoured a topic as the Great White Way itself. But by any standard, the concentration of British theatre folk this season is astonishing. No fewer than 11 British and Irish imports — from Sian Phillips in *Marlene* to Anna Friel and Rupert Graves, both making their Broadway debuts, in Patrick Marber's *Closer* — will battle it out for the Tony Awards in June.

But are there sufficient audiences to keep afloat a line-up of imports that includes — off-Broadway — Lindsay Duncan in Pinter's *Ashes to Ashes* as well as the local premieres of Ayub Khan Din's *East is East*, Anthony Neilson's *The Censor* and Philip Ridley's *The Pitchfork Disney*? Obviously not, which explains why some British visitors to the Big Apple may go home in tears. Until, of course, next season's invasion begins, starting with Peter Hall's revival of *Amadeus*, when the story will be repeated all over again.

> ‘But some British visitors may still go home in tears’

Broadway has long hosted a British snob hit or two per season, from recent Tony-winners Janet McTeer in *A Doll's House* and Pauline Collins in *Shirley Valentine* to last season's best play (*Art*) and best actor and actress in a musical (Alan Cumming and Natasha Richardson, for Sam Mendes's continuing revival of *Cabaret*). This, however, may be the first season in memory in which several categories could be filled more or less entirely by Britons. In a replay of the Olivier race several years back, the Best Actress prize looks set to pit Zoë Wanamaker's Electra against Judi Dench's grieving actress, Esme, in *Amy's View*, with Dench the odds-on favourite since Broadway truly loves a Dame.

Indeed, Richard Eyre's National Theatre production of *Amy's View* has eclipsed in advance sales — a staggering £3 million or thereabouts so far — a previous David Hare entry from this season, *The Blue Room*, with the box office taking some £60,000 a day since Dench won her Academy Award last month for *Shakespeare In Love*. Nicole Kidman in the nude clearly pales next to Dame Judi clothed. And with good reason: Dench's first Broadway performance in 40 years is even more transcendent in New York than it was in London.

Amy's View is a bona-fide star vehicle, as is its West 47th Street neighbour, *The Iceman Cometh*, an Almeida Theatre transfer, once again starring Kevin Spacey, already acclaimed in London for his marathon performance as Hickey. The supporting cast couples holdovers from London such as Tim Pigott-Smith and James Hazeldine with such New York regulars as Jeff Weiss, Michael Emerson and Robert Sean Leonard, all of whom improved significantly on their London predecessors.

Hare has had four plays in New York in the past 12 months, including last season's *The Judas Kiss*, but it is the best of the crop, his solo show *Via Dolorosa*, that is doing the worst business. But then as an actor, David Hare isn't exactly Judi Dench (as the dramatist wryly admits). Nonetheless, it was brave of Hare (and of his not-for-profit producers at Lincoln Centre) to bring to Broadway a meditation on the Middle East — and on the origins of faith — that would seem to be so resolutely uncommercial. And the presence of *Via Dolorosa* next door to the musical *Jekyll and Hyde* and across the street from an oddly affectless Natasha Richardson in *Closer* does mean that the nascent performer in Hare can now compete for the Best Actor Tony against front-runners Spacey and Brian Dennehy (in a 50th-anniversary revival of *Death of a Salesman*). It is a prospect the playwright himself has described as "surreal".

The ensemble entries from Britain — Corin Redgrave in Tennessee Williams's *Not About Nightingales* among them — face the most difficult struggle for audiences amid a star-heavy season. Even Wanamaker — New York-born but far better known in her parents' adopted London — led into profit a 2,400-year-old play, Sophocles's *Electra*, that might have been assumed (in a less galvanic staging than David Leveaux's) to put Broadway's tired businessman brigade to sleep.

Something similar could end up hampering *The Weir*. Conor McPherson's Olivier Award-winner newly transplanted to a Broadway theatre that is too big for the script's subtle exercise in healing. Reviews — a rave from *The New York Times* notwithstanding — have been distinctly cool for what is exactly the sort of reflective and melancholic play that Broadway tends to reject. The instructive comparison here is with Martin McDonagh's *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, a far more lurid Anglo-Irish offering trafficking in the very sensationalism and melodrama which *The Weir* is too gentle to indulge.

In the dubious belief that New York wants more of the same, a later (and inferior) McDonagh play, *The Lonesome West*, opens on Broadway late this month in a last-minute bid for Tony attention, although it is unlikely to get it. At about the same time, yet another English actor will be added to the mix: Toby Stephens makes his Broadway debut at the end of the season in a local revival of Jean Anouilh's *Ring Round the Moon*.

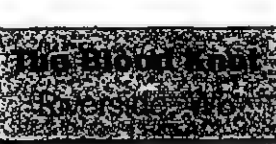
One must mention, too, Britain's Judy Parfitt, by all accounts stealing the show from Matthew Broderick in a revival of Emlyn Williams's *Night Must Fall*, and Ruthie Henshall, who is poised to make her Broadway debut on May 25 opposite Sandy Duncan in that quintessentially American musical, *Chicago*.

In the separate sphere of cabaret, the sounds are no less English: Imelda Staunton is in town with her "big band". "You saw her on screen as Gwyneth Paltrow's nurse," trumpets the advertisement in *The New York Times*. "Now see her *LIVE*."

Where does all this leave American talent? Struggling to be heard, one might assume, were it not for the presence — mostly off-Broadway — of such first-rate American plays as *Wit*, *Snakebit* and *Betty's Summer Vacation*, with the world premiere of John Guare's newest, *Lake Hollywood*, due on April 29. On Broadway, the Dennehy *Death of a Salesman* is more than holding its own, even as Stockard Channing and Laurence Fishburne make a pair of combustible, highly watchable Plantagenets in a new revival of *The Lion In Winter*.

And after dominating the Broadway musical for more than a decade, Britain did not export a single one this season, with the exception of the Matthew Bourne *Swan Lake* (since departed). "Attention must be paid," Linda Loman demands at the end of *Death of a Salesman*, and so it is this season to the British, even if, like Willy Loman himself, the indigenous American theatre will not surrender without a fight.

White out of black



When this two-hander appeared in Johannesburg in 1961, it caused consternation. A bold young dramatist called Athol Fugard was breaking the existing taboos, not just because he was presenting a politically suggestive play about two "Coloured" brothers, but because he himself was playing the light-skinned one and Zakes Mokae the decidedly darker one. It was the first time in the apartheid era that a white had shared a stage with a black — and it was an omen of excellence to come, for within a year *The Blood Knot* was in London and New York and had won Fugard an international reputation.

Deservedly so, as Wilfred Judd's beautifully acted revival proceeds to prove. Barry Wallman's Morris — pernickety, uneasy, physically apologetic — has clearly wearied of the stress of passing for white. Gordon Case's Zachariah — a big Falstaffian figure whose trademark chuckles express as much frustration and anger as relish for life — never had that opportunity. Now they share the jumble of corrugated iron and driftwood that is home in Port Elizabeth. Black Zach earns the money, guarding the gates of a local factory, while white Morris does the cooking, tending and foot-washing: an inversion of roles that would doubtless have struck the play's original audiences as provocative.

The plot involves Morris's attempt to cope with Zach's restlessness by finding him a pen-pal and, since his brother is illiterate, by himself penning the letters. But pretty little Ethel turns out to be white, to have a cop for a brother, and to be deluded enough to invite herself to Port Elizabeth. For the first time in a play in which he always prefers to observe than preach, Fugard lets a few generalisations surface. "When they get their hands on a dark-born boy playing with a white idea, you think they don't find out what he's been dreaming at night?" warns Morris. "They can live with his hate. All they need for evidence is his dreams."

And so to some nice dramatic surprises and to a denouement which, though stylised, feels fully earned. Suddenly the brothers are playing games, and the games they play are painful. Suddenly they are pretending to hurl stones at the poor dead mother who Zach feels rejected him because he was black and Morris thinks let him down by herself failing to be white. Suddenly one brother is white South Africa, confident and contemptuous of its slave population, and the other is black South Africa, obsequious but resentful and very dangerous indeed.

The play is of course dreadfully dated at a time when, as events from Eltham to Kosovo to mid-Africa have been confirming, all our ethnic, tribal and fratricidal problems are happily resolved. But even if it had no resonances at all, it would still fascinate, still grip.

Will one of our more enterprising impresarios please make a field-trip down to the Riverside? If ever a modest production deserved wider viewing, this is it.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

MARILYN KINGWILL



Carolyn Backhouse (left) and Kate O'Mara in *Colombe*

Into mature bloom

Colombe
Salisbury Playhouse

In all probability unseen in this country since Peter Brook's London production nearly 50 years ago, Anouilh's first "theatre" play has been enjoyably revived by Jonathan Church as his closing production here before becoming assistant artistic director at Hampstead.

Anouilh's fleet of plays are somewhat becalmed these days, with only *Antigone* breasting every wind of fashion. But the Straydogs production of *Eurydice* at BAC last autumn showed how palatable his sweet pessimism can be, and many another rediscovery awaits, though most of his plays call for large casts and grand sets, often with gilding.

Colombe is a flower girl who has married the puritan elder son of a theatrical monster, rivalling Sarah Bernhardt in her arrogant extravagance and contemptuous of her son's romantic idealism. There is more than a touch of Antigone to this troubled Julien, whose inflexible moral principles oblige him to perform military duties he could easily avoid, thus causing him to entrust Colombe to his mother's care.

When he returns a few months later, she has happily shed the dour morality he imposed upon her and is perfectly willing to sleep with him though now enjoying an affair with his worldly-wise brother. An epilogue returns us to the doomed couple's first meeting, contrasting their youthful rapture with our knowledge of what lies in their future.

We are clearly intended to see Julien as a young prig; what Damien Goodwin also gives us, in the passions that contort his face, is the sense that he is as much an egotist as his ruthless mother. At the same time he is the only character whose childhood, rejected and neglected, is given a mention, and by doing so Anouilh relates Julien's male chauvinism to the terror of abandonment in a past of real pain.

Jeremy Sams provides a witty translation, incorporating equivalents of the French vulgarities that frightened lily-livered English censors back in 1951. These are chiefly mouthed by Kate O'Mara's raging *tragédienne*, whose curses perform the same function of deflating the mystery as the homely burblings of her dresser (Jan Waters) who judges a play's worth by its economy of costume changes.

O'Mara displays a fine sulk and a range of the foibles popularly linked to actressy divas, plus a moment of poignancy — her face transformed — following her defence of pleasure-seeking as less selfish than idealism.

Church's strong company give good performances all down the line, with Carolyn Backhouse outstanding in the crucial role of Colombe. She displays an air of experience from the start, a puzzle the epilogue helps to explain, and here her voice has a bewitching timbre and vibrato. She does not overplay the superficiality in later scenes, and the position of her hands, carefully not touching her distraught husband, make their own comment upon her protests of sympathy.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Yanking our chains

COMEDY
Swangleurs
Jongleurs, NW1

Pity the hapless American girl sitting near the stage. To admit to coming from New York is careless enough, to declare that you are studying literature and rhetoric amounts to a death-wish.

Yank-baiting is one of the few blood-sports left now that mothers-in-law are out of bounds, and compere Mark Billingham set about his victim with unabashed glee. Fortunately she seemed to take the pummelling in good part even as other comics joined in.

If the banter was familiar enough, the rest of this Swan-sponsored touring programme stayed at a dauntingly high level. The line-up will be rotated at other Jongleurs venues across the country this month. This particular bill struck a clever balance between the doleful monologues of Ricky Grover, the manic Tommy Cooper-ish routine of Steve Rawlings and the laconic Sean Meo.

Politics crept briefly into view on the subject of the *British Museum*. If the Parthenon exhibits are known as the Elgin Marbles, should the Louvre re-

Town they think you're overdressed if you've got two ears." His ludicrous but irresistible tale of U and non-U, and the hunt for the polite word for "bathroom" in a country home ended with a full Rabelaisian flourish. Suppressed menace oozes from Grover's ample, string-vest-covered frame.

In the case of the breathlessly inspired Rawlings, the danger lies in the knives, plates and assorted missiles hurtling in all directions. No wonder he compliments his audience on their ability to flinch. He inflicts all sorts of indignities on himself. Babbling away, he appears to saw off his hand, strikes himself on the head with a crown bowl, and makes heavy weather of balancing a tray of wine glasses above his chin, all the while hectoring the woman summoned from the audience to help him.

The chaos is thoughtfully contrived, however. Rawlings goes to the very brink before pulling back, revelling in

Can someone please tell us who we are?

Britain's identity crisis sets a profound problem for politicians

Kosovo, Northern Ireland and Scotland are each trying to answer the same question: how to reconcile different loyalties and identities within a single state. The strains have broken apart Yugoslavia over the past decade, as they did the former Soviet Union in 1991. Northern Ireland lives in an uneasy balance between conflict and repeated attempts at a new constitutional structure. The choices facing Scotland, and to a lesser extent Wales, are less extreme, but the question is the same. Can you be both Scots-Welsh and British? And, equally intractable, can you be both British and European?

The Unionist-Tory answer is no. The nation state remains supreme, as a focus of loyalty and political power. Anything that detracts from that is dangerous, whether the feared break-up of the United Kingdom is as a result of devolution or rule from Brussels.

Such a one-dimensional view will no longer do. The traditional nation state is already being transformed. Historians, notably Linda Colley in her *Britons*, have argued that Britain was largely a late 17th and 18th-century invention, a Protestant island threatened by a mainly Catholic Continent, especially France. But in the absence of such dangers, and with the end of empire, the pressures that held Britain together have disappeared. That may lead to looser links within Britain and a resumption of the previous close involvement with the rest of Europe.

In response, Tories argue that the British identity has existed for hundreds of years — though most references are to England, not Britain. That is both true and beside the point. Britain now has a different and more complex meaning. For instance, sport is no longer defined by national or linguistic boundaries. In the part of North London where I live, I would bet that the most admired person is French, Arsène Wenger, the manager of Arsenal, whose leading goalscorers are French and Dutch. That does not make Arsenal supporters any less patriotic.

The nation state will remain the primary political unit with which people identify, not least because of its democratic legitimacy, but it is no longer the sole one. The challenges are not just constitutional. The way we live and work is becoming much more international, through the Internet, television and everything summed up by the term globalisation. Society is also more diverse, with the two-parent family no longer almost the sole publicly acceptable option (though it is still the majority one). Moreover, as Robert Cooper, one of the cleverest British diplomats, argues in the current *Prospect*, a weakening of the State and national identities may bring more divided societies.

The most pressing test is devolution. The revived Scottish sense of national identity has had some crudely anti-English manifestations, in films such as *Braveheart*. But conflict is not inherent. It is possible to be both Scottish and British. A MORI poll last July for the Institute of Citizenship showed that more than three quarters of the public felt they belonged very or fairly strongly to their local communities; to England, Scotland or Wales; and to Great Britain.

Reconciling these different loyalties contains many traps. For the Left, there is the danger of multiculturalism, of abandoning a common history or culture and treating the experience of all ethnic and minority groups as equally significant. History is already taught in America solely from a black or feminist perspective (will British history be taught just from a Scottish standpoint?). That is not only historical nonsense but it also creates a sense of group grievance which fragments society.

The Right is torn between recognising the existence of a more diverse society and denying its implications. The Tories want to reach out to minority groups, yet are drawn to a caricature *Daily Mail* version of the family defined by which party offers bigger tax reliefs to couples. William Hague is instinctively pluralist, yet seems reluctant to acknowledge that this can involve a modest decentralisation of power away from London. It is all or nothing: the United Kingdom or a break-up into its constituent nations.

Peter Riddell

As Vernon Bogdanor argues in his new book *Devolution in the United Kingdom*, there is a profound contradiction in Unionist thinking. While regarding Britain as a deep-rooted organic entity, Unionists-Tories are worried that British identity is so fragile that it can be put at risk by the constitutional reforms of one Government. Some Tories relish the prospect of a break with Scotland as an opportunity for an English nationalist reawakening, as Simon Heffer does in his new book (in effect a polemical tract) *Nor Shall My Sword: The Reinvention of England*. The official line is still Unionist but the Tory party is confused, as shown by the continuing muddle over the idea of an English parliament.

The arguments over devolution are parallel to those over Europe. Sceptics argue that it is impossible to be both British and European. According to the MORI poll quoted above, only a third of the public feel they strongly belong to Europe. This is far less than on the Continent, where the French have no problem in feeling they belong both to France and to Europe. Yet that is what will have to happen if Britain is to be a successful member of the European Union. Tony Blair writes this morning in *Newsweek* about a "new internationalism", a new doctrine to deal with brutal repression of the kind seen in Kosovo. Managing such multiple identities and loyalties — local, regional, national, European and international, as well as social — is now the trickiest task for our political leaders.

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The man for Auntie

Andrew Neil might not want to run the BBC, but he would be an ideal candidate

The Governors of the BBC are choosing a new Director-General to succeed Sir John Birt. It is a make-or-break decision for the future of the BBC. Unless the new Director-General, who will not take office until next April, can master a complex series of technological, production, editorial, financial, marketing and administrative problems, the BBC will probably become one of Britain's obsolete ceremonial institutions, like the hereditary peers. Even its financial basis, the licence fee, is at risk. The Governors are not looking for any ordinary Director-General; they are looking for a superman or superwoman.

It is absolutely the Governors' choice. I was BBC vice-chairman when we chose Alasdair Milne in 1982. We did not consult the Government of the day, and it would have been fatal to any candidate's chances to have been regarded as Margaret Thatcher's preference. So far as I know, she did not have one; she probably disapproved equally of all the candidates. When one reads in the press that the next Director-General will have to be acceptable to Tony Blair, I'm sure that is untrue. The Governors will choose the person they believe best for the job, and the Prime Minister will have to accept their choice.

Last Friday ONdigital announced that by the end of March it had already signed up 110,000 subscribers; by February, the figure for SkyDigital was 350,000. By the time the new Director-General takes over from John Birt, the combined digital audience will be well over a million households. Current research suggests that it may be more than 12 million by the time that his first five-year term has ended. By 2005, the analogue age will be over, and the digital age will be the reality.

The BBC was established in the early 1920s as a monopoly broadcaster, dependent on monopoly funding. This broadcasting monopoly has been eroded in three stages: by the introduction of Independent Television in the 1950s, by satellite broadcasting in the late 1980s and 1990s, and now by the rapid spread of digital, funded largely on a subscription basis, and capable of providing an indefinite number of competing channels.

The BBC's response to the first competitive challenge was successful. Independent Television produced some excellent and innovative programmes, and won the high ratings advertisers called for, but the BBC always answered back. In terms of public confidence, or of the quality of output, the 30 years of limited competition between terrestrial channels was ideal for the BBC. That period, remembered by BBC producers for Hugh Carleton Greene's tenure as Director-General, was the BBC's golden age. Competition provided a spur; the limitation to four terrestrial channels provided a protection.

The BBC was much less successful in meeting the competition from satellite broadcasting, using the old analogue system. Sky was able to win a substantial share of the market, and has come to dominate televised sport. The BBC tried various responses; some failed altogether and none was a real success.

William Rees-Mogg

In some ways, the BBC's response under John Birt to the digital challenge has been more coherent. He took the unpopular course of diverting substantial sums to the creation of new channels, the 24-hour news and BBC Choice; they were bound to have a small audience to begin with, but are likely to have a growing audience as digital grows.

As a digital subscriber, I already find myself watching BBC Choice as a way of catching good programmes I had missed. John Birt has understood that the BBC's role in the digital period must be as a high-quality producer. My judgment is that he badly underestimated sport. A well-funded BBC sports channel must have been considered, and should have been created.

The digital response by the BBC makes better sense from that of Independent Television. The BBC's instinct has been to raise programme quality and seek the best available slots on digital platforms, which are as valuable to a broadcaster as landing rights at Heathrow are to an airline. Independent Television took the grotesque decision to refuse to provide its main channel to SkyDigital; it has gone downmarket, actually abolishing its anchor programme of the *News at Ten*. The combination may prove disastrous. In my case, ITV has fallen from about 25 per cent of my total viewing to about 5 per cent and other SkyDigital viewers say much the same.

John Birt will not, therefore, be leaving a legacy in which all the wrong decisions have already been made. He will, however, be leaving at a very early stage of the digital revolution; this is where the French Revolution was early in 1789, before the Bastille had fallen.

What will need to be done will be essentially entrepreneurial. The BBC needs to build on its strengths to dominate the top half of the new broadcasting market that is being created. It does not need to compete at the tabloid or Jerry Springer level, which would alienate its natural supporters and viewers. In newspaper terms, the core BBC audience ranges from the mid-market tabloid to the broadsheet, from the *Daily Mail* to *The Times* or the *Financial Times*. The new Director-General must be someone who understands that audience. There are plenty of signs in the Discovery Channel or the History Channel that the demand is there; the BBC could meet it much better.

The new Director-General will need to be much more than a good editor-in-chief. The BBC's greatest weakness is that it was too strong a monopoly for too long; that always makes it difficult to change, and almost impossible to change fast. One of the reasons Sky out-competed the BBC with satellite broadcasting was that it was a new company, with the energy and flexibility such a business can have. The next Director-General will have to teach the old elephant to dance a new tune.

There is one man who might get it right. I doubt if he wants the job, but if he did, my recommendation would do him little good. I do not believe anyone from inside the BBC will be able to handle the challenge, because the BBC's own culture, its inability to see itself from the outside, is so large a part of the problem. There are many good people inside the BBC, and they are individually capable of self-criticism, but they have inevitably been indoctrinated by the culture. They have not gone native; they are native. The candidate I would go for, to save the BBC, would be Andrew Neil.

He was undoubtedly a great Editor of the 1980s. He is one of three past Editors of *The Sunday Times* — Denis Hamilton and Harold Evans were predecessors — who over 30 years made that paper the pre-eminent Sunday broadsheet. In the late 1990s, as Editor-in-Chief of *The Scotsman*, he has built another world-class newspaper.

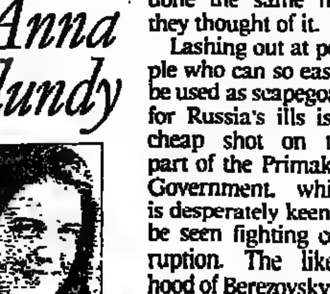
Quite recently I switched from *The Guardian* to *The Scotsman*, mainly because I was interested in following the elections to the Scottish parliament. I shall stay with it, because it is the better paper of the two, with a stronger news judgment, crisper, less predictable, less self-satisfied, less sarcastic, with a wider range of interests. One must also credit the excellent Editor, Alan Ruddock.

Andrew is a bonnie fighter, as Glasgow Scots are supposed to be. He was much influenced by working for Rupert Murdoch, who runs a masterclass for ambitious media men which has other distinguished graduates. Andrew knows about quality, and believes in it. He knows about international broadcasting. He can read a balance sheet. I am not sure that Andrew could save the BBC, or that anyone could, but he provides a good measuring rod. The next Director-General has at least to match him on editorial experience, business sense, energy, leadership qualities, and in his ruthless capacity for creating change. Any Director-General who cannot meet the Neil standard will not be able to master the revolution. If he fails, the BBC itself may end on the guillotine of history.

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'The most sensible thing would be to declare an amnesty — that way Russia's richest people would not be fleeing the country in droves'

Anna Blundy



Who is guilty? Where is the money? These are two questions which have obsessed Russians since the beginning of the perestroika era. The answers are almost everyone and mostly in Switzerland. This, obviously, is not enough to satisfy your newly information-hungry Russian, eager to blame somebody for his poverty and preferably somebody rich and powerful.

As more and more time and money are spent trying to come up with satisfactory and coherent responses to the nagging questions above, the answers become increasingly obscured in conspiracy theories and new allegations of corruption. The moment somebody launches an investigation into somebody else's guilt, then compromising information immediately emerges either implicating the investigator in the original crime or accusing them of involvement in a crime far worse.

The current witch-hunt against Boris Berezovsky (Russia's favourite billionaire villain) and other tycoons who have long been labelled "oligarchs" by people who do not understand what the word means is symptomatic of a general feeling that somebody somewhere has ruined Russia and stolen all her money. A warrant was issued last week for Berezovsky's arrest (he is now in Paris having a nice time with all his money) and he has promised to return home soon to face charges of money-laundering and illegal business activity, though few seriously expect him to show up. And why should he?

Anyone who has made vast sums of money in Russia over the past decade has done so by means which are at the very least dubious. However, at the time when Berezovsky and his like were building their empires they were the only ones building anything at all and there was nothing stopping them. The legal system of the Soviet Union had collapsed and nothing had effectively replaced it.

Bribes and threats could buy you whatever you wanted (such as the right to export oil owned by the Government and keep the profits), such that all the shady, get-rich-quick schemes employed by the new robber barons were sanctioned by bribed officials, and were, for the most part, not technically speaking illegal. Whether or not they were glaringly unethical is a different question, but what few would deny is that they would probably have done the same had they thought of it.

Lashing out at people who can so easily be used as scapegoats for Russia's ills is a cheap shot on the part of the Primakov Government, which is desperately keen to be seen fighting corruption. The likelihood of Berezovsky or Aleksandr Smolensky, of SBS-Agro Bank fame, ever serving a prison sentence is infinitesimally small, and the agony of separation they will suffer as exiles in the West is doubtful. Any money that might have gone missing by their hands will never be seen again.

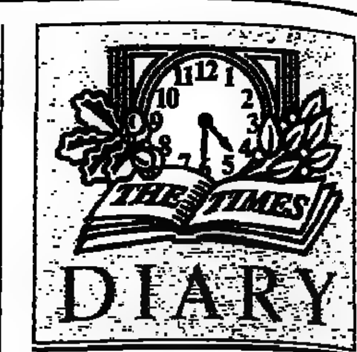
Constant allegations of embezzlement are stopping Russia from getting on with the job in hand, that is, recovering from the crisis of last August. Nobody is likely to provide loans for or invest in a country whose main obsession is the apportioning of blame, rather than the seeking of solutions. Did somebody steal a massive cut of the IMF and World Bank loans? Possibly, but they did not take as much money as the conspiracy theorists would like to believe, and the vast majority of IMF funds at least did go into stabilising the rouble, rightly or wrongly (well, OK, probably wrongly).

Somebody suggested to me the other day that the most sensible thing to do, since it is impossible to legislate retrospectively, would be to declare an amnesty on illegal and semi-legal business dealings that took place before the beginning of 1999. That way Russia's richest people would not be fleeing the country in droves and the powers-that-be would not feel compelled to carry out expensive, pointless and always personally motivated investigations against the businessmen who annoy them most.

Investigate anyone, Russian or Western, who has made a lot of money here and it is likely that you would find something that would soon have them sipping a café crème with Berezovsky and Anatoli Sobchak (the former Mayor of St Petersburg) on the banks of the Seine.

Who gets investigated is a fairly random decision, dependent only on who has control over the Prosecutor General at any given time. Everybody knows that Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister, harbours a great deal of animosity towards Boris Berezovsky. That is not to defend Berezovsky and all his dealings, but as they say here: "If I'm the boss, you're a fool. If you're the boss, I'm a fool."

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Out of harmony

TOM JONES, recently honoured with an OBE, has repaid the favour by attacking the "divisive" politics of Sean Connery. The Welsh singer, below left, accuses Connery — whose support for Scottish independence scuppered plans to award him a knighthood — of jeopardising the British "identity".

"The British Isles is small enough as it is, we don't want to make it any smaller," says Jones, displaying renewed pride in Queen and country. His lilting words come as his fellow Celt, right, prepares to campaign for the SNP in the Scottish parliamentary elections.

"I'm very proud of being Welsh," Jones adds hurriedly. "But I don't want to split this island up. United we stand, divided we fall."



GLENDA JACKSON tires of the "assumption" that her Hampstead constituency teems with pampered Blairites and champagne Socialists. "It irritates me that Hampstead is continually associated with these sorts of people," barks Ms Jackson. "Deprivation does exist there."

■ CURRY supplies to the Dome are in jeopardy: the company hired to serve vindaloos on Millennium Eve is threatening to pull out after "stringent conditions" were imposed by Lord Falconer of Thoroton. The Chutney Mary group (its name is Raj-speak for a Westernised Indian woman) expects to prepare 2,000 curries a day in a 45-seat restaurant, but its owners — who featured in a recent list of the country's richest Asians — are revolting: "There is a distinct possibility we will not go ahead because of the terms," says Ranjit Mathrani.

The "outrageous" conditions, which also bind other Dome caterers, include the right for Falconer to sack the catering staff, to force operators to carry adverts for sponsors and to terminate the agreement with ten days' notice. "It is the same as for any major event," insists a Dome spokesman.



HOW delightful that the Duchess of Devonshire (above, with the Duke) should stay abreast of modern life's more bracing features. After Chatsworth House was placed on a "stately home ride" by a local train company, Her Grace — grandest of the Mitford sisters — noted to friends that the railway's offer of "service in your seat" makes it sound "like a lap-dancing club".

■ IS Marco Pierre White retrenching? The restaurateur has ditched plans to open up in his home town of Leeds to attend to his budding career with the palette (Damien Hirst's work on the walls of Quo Vadis is being replaced by MPW's own daubs). "Oh, you know what Marco's like," offers a friend. "He changes his mind all the time."

THE course of true love has not run smoothly for the RSC's A Midsummer Night's Dream in Stratford-upon-Avon: a party of Roman Catholic children was marched out by teachers alarmed at a simulated sex scene involving Bottom. Says the RSC: "It is not a fluffy fairies production."

■ THE architect Sir Norman Foster is having trouble with neighbours: his efforts to erect an extra floor on his Thameside penthouse have led to skirmishes in the area (which shelters Neil and Christine Hamilton, and Vivienne Westwood's studio) after one of his toilers blocked off a pavement to carry out the work. "There was an unauthorised closure," my yellow-hatted chum on Wandsworth council tells me. "So we went down to read the Riot Act."

TO warn of the dangers of drink, Tessa Jowell, Minister for Public Health, will next week launch "Cheers Without Tears" — at a champagne reception.

EDWARD WELSH

THE TIMES

THUNDER IN ULSTER

London and Dublin must not weaken now

While Western eyes have turned in pity and horror towards the Balkans over the past week there has been an ominous crackle in the Ulster air. The thunder may not be far behind. Northern Ireland's parties reconvene for talks this week in a spirit of hope, but a posture of fear. Progress in the peace process has, so far, depended on a willingness among democrats to postpone the central test of good faith from those who have practised terror in the past. The requirement that parties linked to paramilitaries secure the decommissioning of weapons before they enjoy executive power over their fellow citizens has been sidelined in the search for agreement on every other issue. Now that issue can no longer be dodged. And the fearful prospect looms that those who have advanced with Armalite and ballot box are married to the former and have only been using the latter.

On the eve of the anniversary of the Good Friday agreement, the British and Irish Prime Ministers unveiled a declaration intended to give fresh impetus towards the implementation of that agreement. They sketched a clear, and speedy, route to a Northern Ireland in which all parties could play their part. All that was required from paramilitary organisations was that some arms "be placed beyond use". Such a voluntary release of weapons from the terrorist grip would be rendered more palatable by a Day of Reconciliation, which would "draw the sting from any notion of surrender". Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern had done everything reasonable leaders might, indeed more than many would, to ease the paramilitaries' path to participation in government

The response has not been encouraging. Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, Martin McGuinness, responded to the Blair-Ahern itinerary for progress with a journey backwards into bloodstained history. He declared that "the demeanour of republicanism from time immemorial clearly shows they are not going to bend the knee to the demands of...the British military establishment". The senior IRA man, Brian Keenan, has been crisply negative, addressing a rally in Monaghan with the words: "I don't know where they get this idea of decommissioning, because it strikes me they mean it like it is surrender. There will be no surrender."

Mr Keenan's rhetoric has found an answering call in the brute intransigence of loyalist paramilitaries who have refused to consider any decommissioning of their own arms. Words may be cheap, but so, as far as the terrorists are still concerned, are lives. The Unionist leader, David Trimble, hopes that there may be some room for manoeuvre in the week ahead. His capacity to conjure hope from despair has surprised pessimists before. But the decisive turn away from violence which he has, rightly, made a precondition of full republican participation in any Ulster executive still seems beyond reach.

In their anxiety to keep the peace process alive both London and Dublin are pre-empting Sinn Fein demands. The Irish Government has released the Balcombe Street bombers; the British is to scale down troop numbers and dismantle military installations. Both moves, though worrying for Ulster's democratic majority, might be considered reasonable in the context of a new Northern Ireland where guns really were silent. But while weapons remain primed in terrorist hands, such concessions could prove premature. The urgent need now is not for indulgence of terrorist wishes, but an insistence on democratic rights, and a preparedness to defend them against those who demand flexibility without ever showing it.

THE PACE QUICKENS

Diplomacy and military operations must step up together

Nato foreign ministers meet today as the pace of diplomacy quickens in step with the pace of war. The special session has been called by Madeleine Albright, as much to reaffirm Nato's aims and take stock of the war so far as to prepare a unified Nato response to Russia's warnings. Ms Albright meets Igor Ivanov, the Russian Foreign Minister, tomorrow, and amid a flurry of diplomatic consultations will reaffirm the West's eagerness to include Russia in the diplomatic pressure on Belgrade — though not, she will insist, as an apologist for Serbian intransigence.

Nato ambassadors, meanwhile, agreed at the weekend to deploy a humanitarian mission of up to 8,000 Nato troops in Albania to cope with more than 300,000 refugees now overwhelming Europe's poorest country. Only a military force can deal with a catastrophe of such proportions. Albania has neither roads, food, stability nor law; its Government cannot possibly ensure that humanitarian aid is not looted, transport it to the refugee camps or organise proper distribution. Even a Nato force will find the going difficult.

There is a danger in the dispatch of these troops, however. Politicians, frustrated by Nato's failure to protect the fleeing refugees, may be tempted to see the force as part of an embyro invasion force for a ground war. They will look also to neighbouring Macedonia, where a further 12,000 Nato peacekeepers were deployed to implement whatever peace agreement was signed at Rambouillet. There was no deal, and for the foreseeable future they have no mission, apart from doing what they can for the Kosovans who have reached Macedonia. Could they not, some will ask, also be reassigned as the vanguard of a ground force that many insist must eventually be deployed to clear the way for the refugees' return?

Nato planners are aghast at such suggestions. The 8,000 sent to Albania will not be equipped for any interventionist role; without tanks, self-propelled artillery and armoured combat vehicles they cannot enter Kosovo. Similarly, the force in Macedonia is armed only to protect itself in the enforcement of peace. It would have the muscle to intervene in sporadic flare-ups; but this is very different from taking on the full force of the Yugoslav Army preparing to fight a last-ditch battle against an invading force.

Some Western politicians have suggested that Nato should start preparing for a ground invasion if only to convince President Milosevic that the alliance is ready to ratchet up the conflict to whatever force level is needed for victory. In this scenario, the existing troops, augmented by others brought into the region by stealth, would suddenly converge into an invasion force of more than 100,000. The difficulty here is that Nato has explicitly, and repeatedly, ruled out such a force. And Mr Milosevic has all the evidence he needs that the alliance should be taken at its word. If enough men are to be mustered on the ground for eventual combat, they and their equipment need to be boarding ships now. They are not. It is therefore inconceivable that any ground force will be deployed within the next three months.

The pace of war will instead be quickened in other ways. Intensified diplomacy must be linked to the destruction of Yugoslavia's military machine. That, Ms Albright will tell Mr Ivanov, remains the aim. And the sooner Russia joins the diplomatic push, the sooner the airstrikes will stop.

NOUVEAUX RICHES

Time for a little vulgar ostentation

The rich are getting richer, but they are also changing in more subtle ways, a list of Britain's wealthiest 1,000 people published yesterday in *The Sunday Times* suggests. Relatively speaking, the super-rich today are far better off than their economic counterparts of a century or two ago. The wealthiest man in the land in 1799, Earl Grosvenor, owned assets which would be worth £750 million today; Hans Rausing, whose family's Tetra Laval carton-making business has put him above Lord Sainsbury of Turville at the top of this year's list, is worth a cool £3,400 million. Despite global economic turbulence over the past year, and fears of impending recession, the continued strong performance of the stock market has kept generating wealth. The top 1,000 were worth £115 billion as recently as January, but their assets have probably grown another £10 billion since.

Importantly for the country's entrepreneurial future, too, most of the new multimillionaires are self-made. The percentage whose wealth is inherited has shrunk from nearly two thirds a decade ago to less than one third today. A corresponding power loss is implied for

But perhaps the most curious thing about the current generation of multimillionaires is how little they flaunt their wealth. They may own the odd yacht or island in the sun; occasionally, one may attempt to fly around the world in a balloon. But today's list boasts no one who comes close to the sheer in-your-face ostentation of the nouveaux riches of the past. On the whole, the rich of 1999 are a well-adjusted and sober lot. Having money does not make them think mink. Instead, they wear jeans. They avoid fatty food. They anxiously limit their alcohol intake. Many live so modestly that it is impossible to guess the extent of their wealth from their behaviour. The most unassuming of all, the computer whizz-kids, even go by the unexotic nickname of "anoraks".

Their entrepreneurial skill is to be celebrated, as is the good taste that stops them rubbing their success in the face of the poor. Yet some may look back with a hint of nostalgic affection at the flamboyance of another era's millionaires. Lady Docker, wife of a Birmingham industrialist in the 1950s, was perhaps the most excessive of her ilk. Her extraordinary lavishness — gold bathtubs and jaunts

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Balkan lessons of recent past

From Mr Robin O'Neill

Sir, To call for a protectorate in Macedonia (article, "Macedonia deserves short shrift", March 7) is arrogant neo-colonialism. What Macedonia needs is help from the rest of Europe in consolidating its position as an independent state — and that consolidation will itself solve the Macedonian question.

Macedonia's name matters here. To go on calling it the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia suggests that it still really forms part of Milosevic's Yugoslavia and should go back there. Some of Macedonia's enemies — but not its citizens — would still like that to happen.

When, in 1992, I attempted on behalf of the Presidency of the European Community (then held by the United Kingdom) to resolve the dispute between Greece and Macedonia over the latter's name, the Greeks suggested that for Macedonia to take the name Republic of Macedonia would destabilise the region. That was not true then, and the past seven years have proved it not to be true. The international community could now help Macedonia to survive in a difficult environment by calling it the Republic of Macedonia — which, incidentally, under international law it is entitled to call itself.

There is much in James Pettifer's article which, as a regular visitor to Macedonia since 1992, I do not recognise. President Gligorov, alone in the region, has exercised a consistently moderating role as a political leader over the past eight years, not least with his fellow countrymen.

He has done that in order to ensure Macedonia's survival from Serbia, as well as to preserve it from the ethnic breakdown which has afflicted its neighbours. And if Macedonia is still run by communists, in or out of the Ministry of Interior, how is it that the ex-Communist Party in power was defeated in the 1998 general election, and the present Government is led by the nationalist party, VMRO?

Macedonia has a long way to go — it had a difficult birth — but the stability of the Balkans requires that it survives, and flourishes, in independence.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN O'NEILL,
4 Castle Street,
Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1BP.
April 7.

From Mr Adrian Hope

Sir, In May 1991 I stood in Trafalgar Square with a small but noisy group of Croatians, Bosnians, Slovenians and Kosovans. We were demonstrating for external intervention to prevent the policy of genocide which we all believed the Serbian authorities to be planning.

I remember with gratitude the contribution of a representative of Plaid Cymru but we were too marginal a group, too absurd with our demands, too paranoid in our predictions to receive either hearing or sympathy from any of the main political parties.

That day I carried a banner: "Serbia's Final Solution" (letters, April 8). It was deliberately provocative. Any declaration in favour of an independent Croatia attracted the suspicion of fascist sympathies and the banner was intended to turn the suspicion back on the accusers. Even though I wrote the banner myself, I did feel at the time that it was perhaps over the top.

How wrong I was.

Yours etc,
ADRIAN HOPE,
54 Brunswick Gardens, W8 4AN.
April 8.

German medals

From Mr Nigel Sisson

Sir, There is a straightforward solution to the problem of how to reward the new generation of Luftwaffe pilots now risking their lives in combat in the Balkans (report, April 7).

As part of a Nato combined operation, surely they are engaged in the "broader war" with which many Germans will feel more comfortable; and this should be recognised by a Nato campaign medal common to the Alliance. Wasn't this what happened with a common UN medal in Korea?

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL SISSON,
Skerryvore,
Woodside Close,
Dersingham, Norfolk PE31 6QD.
April 7.

From Mrs Christine Virdi

Sir, How long must Germany carry the cross of guilt?

In the Second World War, within the ranks of the three regular services, many Germans fought for their country with the same honour as those of the Allied forces. The Iron Cross medal is synonymous with Germany and its recognition of bravery.

Therefore, their pilots should be awarded an updated version of the Iron Cross, and wear it with pride. No one can be offended by bravery.

Proposals for schoolteachers' pay

From Mr Jonathan Cox

Sir, The Government's proposals on teachers' pay (reports, April 5-7) are doubtless well intentioned but are characterised by ignorance of good teaching practice.

The whole idea of rewarding good classroom teachers is to say to them: "You are doing a good job in the classroom and we want to reward you for it so you can carry on, where you are, with the good work." Unfortunately this will not happen because, in order to break through the "performance threshold", a good classroom teacher will have to take on extra responsibilities outside the classroom; this will (as it does now) distract them from their most important responsibility and use up a disproportionate amount of their limited time on whatever additional tasks their head teacher gives them. The quality of their performance in the classroom will inevitably deteriorate.

Yours etc,
JONATHAN COX,
15 Longley Road, Harrow HA1 4TG.
joncox@cwcom.net
April 7.

From Mrs Theresa May, MP for Maidenhead (Conservative)

Sir, If the Conservatives were simply supporting those teacher unions who have threatened strikes in their opposition to the Government's proposals for performance-related pay, as your leading article ("Chalk and Cheese", April 7) implies, that indeed would be incredible. But we are not.

We condemn proposals for strike action (as your leader makes clear). Such action not only lets down children in our schools; it also lets down the teaching profession.

We support the concept of appraising teachers' performance and rewarding good teachers. We also want good teachers to be able to stay in our classrooms doing what they are good at — teaching children. We want to see flexibility at local level and schools and teachers set free to get on with the job of educating children to high standards.

What we oppose is a centrally controlled, bureaucratic, mechanistic approach which it has been calculated will cost £250 million to put into place and £130 million each year to administer, and which could take good teachers out of the classroom. That is the reality of the Government's proposals.

Yet again we see the Government talking the language of business when the reality of its policy is bureaucracy and centralisation.

Yours faithfully,
THERESA MAY
(Shadow Schools Minister),
House of Commons.
April 7.

From Mr E. L. Stuart

Sir, It is regrettable that your desire to buttress the case for performance-related pay for teachers should lead you to state that "One of the most elementary features of a profession is that of individual contracts."

Are those employed in the Home Civil Service or the Foreign Service not members of a profession? Are not medical practitioners and other highly qualified NHS staff, to say nothing of others paid from public funds, such as Members of Parliament?

I am, yours faithfully,
E. L. STUART,
8 Caledonian Way,
Darlington, Co Durham DL1 3RJ.
April 7.

Using VAT to maintain churches

From Miss Anne McIntosh, MEP for North Essex and South Suffolk European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative)

Sir, As you say in your leading article, "Treasure in Heaven" (April 5), the Church does indeed need a tax break to help it to repair and maintain its historic buildings. You mention the Government's excuse that its "hands are tied by an EU Directive which excludes repairs to historic buildings in the list of items accepted as eligible for a lower [rate of] VAT".

This is simply not the case. The Government's hands are tied only by its unwillingness to forgo the vast VAT receipts it receives from the Church in repairs to historic buildings. The revised EU proposal announced this February can perfectly well be applied to repairs to historic buildings, unlike the previous EU proposal on this subject, and the Government should commit itself to promoting it in the Council of Ministers. To my knowledge, this is almost certainly the only occasion in which "Brussels" has offered to lower our taxes, so I would have thought that the Government would be keen to make the most of it.

In both answers to my Parliamentary Question and letters on this issue, the Government has always refused to commit itself to pushing through this VAT cut. Dawn Primarolo actually said to me in a letter in April last year that "using the VAT system to relieve the burden [on the Church] is an inefficient way of helping to preserve our national heritage". Or, in other words, the Government appears to believe it is more efficient to take money from the Church in the form of VAT on repairs, waste money on administration, and then give some (but not all) of this money back to the Church in the form of an English Heritage grant. Is it possible that the man (or woman) in Whitehall does not know best, and that parishes know better how to spend money on repairs than government officials?

The European Commission is, amazingly, offering to lower our taxes and to make the parishioners and clergy of Britain dance for joy by reducing the cost of repairs to historic buildings. Why is the Government not taking advantage of this unprecedented offer?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ANNE McINTOSH
(Conservative MP for Vale of York),
European Parliament,
Rue Wiertz,
CB-1047 Brussels.
April 7.

From Mr Roger M. Hancock

Sir, I wholeheartedly support your leader. It is surely not unreasonable to ask that the minority of the population who are now active church and chapel members be offered some relief from maintaining the vitally important architectural heritage represented by our cathedrals, parish churches and chapels.

The small rural parish churches are particularly vulnerable, and parochial church councils are finding it increasingly difficult to raise their annual "quota" for ministers' stipends, as well as the cash needed every year to maintain the fabric of their churches. Many churches and chapels are in great danger of closure in the coming years. The lower VAT rate proposed in your leader would indeed seem like manna from Heaven if it materialised.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER HANCOCK,
The Malthouse,
Castle Street,
Raglan, Gwent NP5 2DS.
April 5.

Loss of contact

From Dr A. A. Surgeon-Frame

Sir, I recently wanted to contact a dental patient of mine in Malvern and dialled Directory Enquiries. The lady said he was unlisted. Since he had his own business, I thought that unlikely.

She then told me that she had never heard of Malvern: she was working in Durham. She explained that the inquiry was dealt with by anyone who picked up my call.

Next time I got a singing Scots accent, emanating from Glasgow, but again no luck with my inquiry. Nevertheless, the lady was extremely pleasant.

Nothing daunted, I tried once more; this time I was on to a Stoke-on-Trent lady. She said she knew Malvern well. This was not relevant, but assuming the address to be correct, she would see if any business was listed there. Contact was then made successfully.

Later that morning I tried a York number, seeking another patient with a distinctive name. A lady in Lincoln answered, called me "Sir" about six times (bad omen) and I got a nil response. I tried the dreaded Directory Enquiries again and returned depressingly to Lincoln, where the lady who had previously brushed me off was again the recipient of my inquiry. For the second time I experienced a total lack of success.

I decided to retire hurt.

Yours sincerely,
ALISTAIR SURGEON-FRAME,
50 Highfield Lane,
Chesterfield S41 8AY.
April 9.

British citizenship

From Mr Michael Pickett

Sir, Mr Piers Litherland (letter, April 7) asks if it is right that any child born in Britain, even the child of a refugee, illegal immigrant or a tourist, should have full British citizenship, whereas he, born in erstwhile Rhodesia, does not. The answer is that it is not right.

Mr Litherland is a British citizen by descent with the right of abode by virtue of the fact that his father was born in the United Kingdom. The hapless child born in the UK to a refugee, illegal immigrant, or a tourist spending a few weeks here takes the nationality of its parents. Prior to the Nationality Act 1981 such a child would have been a citizen of the UK and colonies whatever the status of the parents.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PICKETT

Living museum to play instruments

From Mr Robert L. Barclay

Sir, Plans for the Royal Academy of Music's "living museum" (report, April 7) have been public knowledge for some time. However, what has probably not been revealed before is the daft sentimentality that underlies the motive for restoring, maintaining and playing this valuable collection of historic instruments.

The observations by Curtis Price, Principal of the Academy, that historic instruments "die" if they are not played, and that "if wood isn't exercised ... it becomes rigid and stiffens up" are well worn rubbish supported by no shred of evidence. Furthermore, his observation that "if you see an instrument, you want to know what it sounds like" ignores the proven facts that the tone of the instrument comes from a) the person who is at the moment playing it and b) the instrument technician who last prepared it for playing.

There is no such thing as a "Stradivari sound", but there is most definitely a "Menuhin sound". We always know *who* is playing, but we never can guess *what* instrument is being played. This has been proven over and over again, for well over a century.

The sound one hears has no relationship to any "historical" quality that the instrument may possess; thus, to prepare an historic instrument for playing (which can be a highly invasive and irreversible process) rather than using a well-made modern copy is to be self-indulgent at the expense of the cultural heritage.

It seems to me that input from any museum advisory organisation is, so far, woefully absent. Decisions upon the disposition of such a valuable collection must be taken by a team of qualified individuals from a wide range of fields, not left to the whims of bankrupt Victorian romanticism.

I would urge Curtis Price to assemble a panel of experts from the fields of musicology, organology, conservation and restoration and to charge them with producing a structured decision-making methodology so that the unique qualities of these historic instruments may be protected. With such a strategy in place it may still be possible to indulge transient, personal musical delight, but it won't happen at the expense of the material from which such sentiments are evoked.

Sincerely,
R. L. BARCLAY
(Senior Conservator,
Musical Instruments,
Canadian Conservation Institute),
3609 Downpatrick Road,
Gloucester, Ontario K1V 9P4.
April 7.

From Mr Andy Lamb

Sir, I was dismayed to read of the plans to use £14 million of public funds to develop the Royal Academy of Music's private collection of instruments.

Dr Curtis Price is wrong if he thinks that his is a new concept. Institutions such as the Canadian Museum of Civilisation, the Horniman Museum, the Musical Museum, in Brentford, Middlesex, and the Paris Conservatoire all have extensive programmes of concerts, lectures and workshops. Indeed, each has wide-ranging public-access schedules for all levels of society.

As for plans for the consistent use of the instruments, there can be no excuse for what I regard as the inevitable destruction of cultural heritage. Musicians are notoriously hamfisted and limiting the use of the instruments to a cultural elite does not make a sound argument for the use of public funds.

Yours faithfully,
ANDY LAMB
(Consultant conservator to the Horniman Museum, 1992-99),
30 Maple House,
Idonia Street, SE8 4LS.
April 7.

Wedding gifts

From Mrs C. M. McLean

Sir, My most appreciated wedding present (letters, April 2, 5, 8 etc) — in 1948 — was the small collection of clothing coupons given me by colleagues in the publishing office where I worked at the time.

Clothes rationing was still in force, but these precious extra coupons enabled me to buy the material for my wedding dress.

Yours sincerely,
MOLLY McLEAN,
Greenways, Burfield Road,
Chorleywood, Rickmansworth,
Hertfordshire WD3 5NS.
April 8.

Pepys's secrets?

From Mr Roderick L. Denyer, QC

Sir, "Samuel Pepys frequented [Bermondsey's] pleasure gardens with his children," writes Jamie Ross ("In love with Shakespeare's London", Homes, April 7).

Odd that Pepys himself forgot to mention those children in his Diary. Perhaps this was something else he hid from his long-suffering wife.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 10: The Prince Edward, Patron, Scottish Badminton Union, today attended the European Junior Badminton Championships at the Kelvin Hall International Sports Arena, Glasgow, which included a lunch followed by the finals, and was received on arrival by the Deputy Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow (Mr Gordon Macdiarmid).

April 10: The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, accompanied by Commodore Timothy Laurence, Royal Navy, this afternoon attended the France v Scotland match in the Five Nations Championship at Stade de France, Paris.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal will open the Oxford International Biomedical Centre's fifth Oxford Conference on Biomedicine in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America at Westwood House, Hinksey Hill Top, Oxford, at 11; as patron, College of Occupational Therapists, will open the new Occupational Therapy Department at the Park Hospital for Children, Old Road, Headington, Oxford, at 1.45; and as patron, Wooden Spoon Society, will open the new ACE (Aiding Communication in Education) Advisory Trust building at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Windmill Road, Headington, Oxford, at 2.35.

The Duke of Kent will visit troops of the 7th and 16th Signal Regiments and the ARRC Support Battalion at Rheindahlen and Krefold, Germany. He will meet families of personnel involved in the current Natio action.

For more details about the Royal Family visit the royal website at:
www.royal.gov.uk

The Lord Menuhin, OM, KBE

A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life and Work of The Lord Menuhin, OM, KBE, will be held in Westminster Abbey at 12 noon, on Thursday June 3. Those wishing to attend are asked to apply in writing, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to: The Assistant Receiver General (Protocol), Room 3, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, London, SW1P 3PA. Requests are restricted to a maximum of two per application. Tickets will be posted by May 20.

Major-General L. de M. (Pete) Thuillier

A service of thanksgiving for Major-General Thuillier will be held at St John Baptist, Chirton, near Devizes, on Friday April 23, at 2.30pm.

Birthdays today

Sir Alan Ayckbourn, playwright, 60; Mr Bill Bryden, theatre director and writer, 57; Miss Montserrat Caballé, opera singer, 66; Mr Brian Connell, writer and broadcaster, 83; Miss Elspet Gray (Lady Rix), actress, 70; Mr Walter Hayes, life president, Aston Martin Lagonda, 75; Mr H.R. Hewitt, former chairman, Johnson Matthey, 79; the Right Rev John T. Hughes, former Bishop to the Forces, 91; Mr Uwe Kitzinger, former President, Templeton College, Oxford, 71; the Earl of Limerick, 69; Mr A.W. Mabbs, archivist, 78; Mr Bryan Magee, writer, 69; Air Marshal Sir Harold Maguire, 87; Mr E.C. Meade, chartered accountant, 76; Dr Hilary Nicolle, educationist, 54; Mr George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, 53; Mrs Wendy Savage, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 64.

Lecture

Nathan Lecture on the Environment
Robert B. Horsch, *Ph.D. President of Sustainable Development Sector of the Monsanto Company*, delivered the Fourth Nathan Lecture on the Environment entitled "Economic growth sustained by Sunlight and Information: an industry perspective on the Future of Agricultural Development and Environmental Stewardship", at the RSA, on April 6, in honour of Lord Nathan. The hosts were Denton Hall's Environment Law Team under the leadership of Partner Jacqui O'Keeffe. The Chairman was Sir William Stewart, former Chief Scientific Advisor to the Cabinet and Chairman of Tayside NHS Trust.

Latest wills

Lord Grade, of London SW7, left estate valued at £8,423,342 net.
Lord Marks of Broughton, of London NW8, left estate valued at £33,069,441 net.
Alfred Rubens, of London SW1, left estate valued at £4,162,919 net.
Mrs Jeanne Cook Robinson, of Brampton, Northampton, left estate valued at £2,432,141 net.
Muriel Lloyd-Roberts, of Eastbourne, left estate valued at £1,280,397 net. She left £5,000 each to the Benevolent Fund of the Institution of Civil Engineers, St Wilfrid's Hospice, Eastbourne, the Royal Academy of Music, and the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund.

Tomb yields ancient art

TOM CONACHY



Neolithic carvings on the sides of the eastern passage of the Knowth tomb in Co Meath in the Irish Republic; below, one of the basins used for cremated ashes and a marking with similarities to Australian Aboriginal art

Rare view given of last resting place of Neolithic chieftains

By Audrey Magee and Elaine Keogh





THE world's largest gallery of Neolithic art was placed on display at the weekend for the first time in 30 years.

Knowth passage tomb, in the Boyne Valley of the Irish Republic, which is closed to the public, was opened to two Irish journalists, who photographed it.

Used around 3,000BC as the final resting place of kings, the tomb is decorated with spirals and zigzags similar to Australian Aboriginal art. The detail and complexity of the art are not found in any other passage tomb in Ireland, not even Newgrange, Ireland's most famous tomb.

Knowth was built on an acre site on the banks of the River Boyne. Two tombs lie back to back under a mound of earth, one facing east, the other west. Both are surrounded by 19 smaller satellite tombs. The eastern tomb visited at the weekend is reached by clambering through a 140ft passage decorated on both sides by carvings.

The end of the passage opens into three circular burial chambers, each measuring about 15ft in width and 25ft in height. The air is cool and still. The artwork around the chamber walls marks the circumference of a large basin used to cremate the dead. The basin is blackened from burnings.

Professor George Eogan, the archaeologist who first uncovered Knowth more than 40 years ago, said that the passage tomb may predate Newgrange. He has found evidence of about ten different cultures in Knowth, implying that it was in use over a few centuries. "Preliminary estimates suggest that up to a hundred individuals were buried in the big tombs. Maybe they were all kings. I think they may represent the artistocratic society at the time," he said.

"Ritual played an important part in the lives of the passage tomb people and great and elaborate tombs are features of an elaborate society."

The eastern tomb at Knowth will be forever closed to the public. Passage stones have fallen inwards, making it too dangerous for visitors. Academics will continue to have access. One theory is that its builders came from Africa.

Francis Byrne, Professor of History at University College Dublin, said: "Knowth has the largest gallery of Neolithic art in the world and the largest number and greatest variety of different patterns.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.N. Allan and Miss C.S.A. Scott
The engagement is announced between Tim, son of Tom and Helen Allan, of Godalming, Surrey, and Carey, daughter of Ian and Glynis Scott, of Wells-next-the-sea, Norfolk, and McLean, Virginia, USA.

Mr J.G. Beveridge and Miss L. Calza
The marriage will shortly take place in Venice, of John Gerard, son of Mr and Mrs James Beveridge, of Petworth, West Sussex, and Lavinia, elder daughter of Professor Giancarlo and Signora Paola Calza, of Milan, Italy.

Mr D.O. Cansell and Miss C.L. Collingwood
The engagement is announced between David Oliver, younger son of the late Mr Anthony Cansell and of Mrs Cansell, of Ingatestone, Essex, and Catherine Louise, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Collingwood, of Lullington, Derbyshire.

Mr H.J.P. Chetwood and Miss K.E. Benson
The engagement is announced between Harry, younger son of Mrs Christopher Chetwood and the late Mr Christopher Chetwood, and Kate, youngest daughter of Mr David and Lady Elizabeth Benson.

Mr R.A. Green and Miss N.J.G. Thorbek
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Paul Green, of Coventry, West Midlands, and Natasha, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Erik Thorbek, of Matfield, Kent.

Mr B.A. Jesson and Miss R.E. Thorley
The engagement is announced between Brett, eldest son of Mr and Mrs S.F.C. Jesson, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, and Roberta, daughter of Mr Hugh Thorley and the late Mrs Jillian Thorley, of Langley, Kent.

Mr P.J. Mott and Miss C.A. Jackson
The engagement is announced between Peter, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Clive Mott, of Effingham, Surrey, and Christine, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Bill Jackson, of Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

Dr J.A. Pletcher and Miss C.A. O'Hagan
The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Dr and Mrs Robert Pletcher, of Pittsburgh, USA, and Cairean, middle daughter of Mr and Mrs James O'Hagan, of Newlands, Glasgow.

Mr G. McCord Burns and Miss C.I.R. Preston-Fayers
The engagement is announced between Gary, youngest son of the late Mr Daniel McCord Burns, and of Mrs McCord Burns, of Dundee, and Caroline Ishbel Rose, younger daughter of Mr Keith Preston-Fayers, of Scarborough, and Chloë Croft-Jackson, of Highland Park House, Kirkwall, Orkney.

Mr J.C. Pockney and Miss A.A.A. Steinke
The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr and Mrs Penrhyn Pockney, of Inkpen, Berkshire, and Anouk, elder daughter of Mrs Adriana Steinke-Mejer, of The Hague, and Mr Jürgen Steinke, of Berlin.

Mr C.A. Rock and Miss K.H.A. Pope
The engagement is announced between Caspar Alexander, elder son of Mr and Mrs Tim Rock, of Farnborough, Berkshire, and Kate Harriet Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Pope, of Stratton, Dorset.

Mr T.A. Sanders and Mrs C.L. Baxendale
The engagement is announced between Timothy Aleyne Sanders, OBE, of Camberley, Surrey, and Carole Lesley Baxendale, of Liphook, Hampshire.

Mr A.J.R. Smith and Miss R.V. Lee
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Colin and Mary Smith, of Mawdesley, Lancashire, and Richmal, daughter of Royston and Susan Lee, of Little Neston, Cheshire.

Mr M.E.G. Thompson and Miss A.C. Bollinghaus
The engagement is announced between Marcus, elder son of Mr and Mrs Robin Thompson, of Chesham Bois, Buckinghamshire, and Amanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Bollinghaus, of Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire.

Mr A.J. Tuckett and Miss S.G. Harmon
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs D. Tuckett, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and Stephanie, daughter of Mr and Mrs F. Harmon, of Las Palmas, Canary Islands.

Mr N.P. Welsh and Miss L.O. Bennion
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mrs Christopher Welsh and the late Mr Christopher Welsh, of Bromley, Kent, and Lucy, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs William Bennion, of Bircham Newton, Norfolk.

Marriages

Mr R.M. Cox-Johnson and Lady Caroline Burnett Armstrong
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of All Saints, Clovelly, Bideford, Devon, of Mr Richard Cox-Johnson, of London, to Lady Caroline Burnett Armstrong, eldest daughter of the late Earl of Stradbroke and of the Hon Mrs K. Rous, of Clovelly Court. The Rev Martin Hunnybun officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by the Hon John Rous, was attended by Margaret Gibbs, Beatrice Minns, Julia Burnett Armstrong and Jess Tate. Mr Anthony Mockler was best man.

A reception was held at Clovelly Court and the honeymoon will be spent in Paris.

Mr E.H. Rose and Miss N.C. Alston
The marriage took place on Saturday in the Chapel of St Faith, St Paul's Cathedral, of Mr Edward Rose, elder son of General Sir Michael and Lady Rose, of Dorset, to Miss Nadine Alston, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Alston, of Westminster. The Bishop of Colchester officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Marcus Myers, Albert Clark, Sophie Walker and Rachel Barker. Mr James Rose was best man.

A reception was held at Drapers' Hall and the honeymoon will be spent in Sicily.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Giuseppe Tartini, composer, Istria, 1692; Edward Bird, painter, Wolverhampton, 1772; John George Lambton, 1st Earl of Durham, statesman, London, 1792; Alexander Ostrovsky, dramatist, Moscow, 1823.

DEATHS: Charles-Joseph Messier, astronomer, Paris, 1817; Feodor Chaliapin, bass singer and actor, Paris, 1938; Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd American President 1933-45, Warm Springs, Georgia, 1945; Alan Paton, writer, Durban, 1988.

The American Civil War began with the siege of Fort Sumter, South Carolina, 1861.

Yuri Gagarin made the first successful space flight, 1961.

Northbourne Park Preparatory School

The Summer term begins today with 227 pupils on roll. "Open Day" will take place on Monday, May 3. Visitors will be welcome and are kindly requested to contact Jackie Jones at the school for an invitation. As part of our new Leadership programme Year 8 pupils will be going on an Adventure Activities week to the Ardèche Gorge in June. The school play, *Toad of Toad Hall*, will be preformed in the Dutch Gardens on July 1 and 2. Pupils from 5e/6e French classes will be performing *Cyrano* at the school, at 2pm on June 10. Speech Day will take place on Saturday, July 3, when we welcome the Rev Canon Wilkinson (Headmaster of the King's School, Canterbury) as our Guest of Honour.

Nature notes

WRENS are common this spring after the mild winter, and are building their domed nests in ivy or in thick bramble bushes. The males make as many as five nests in their territory in order to attract a mate. Robins are beginning to make their mossy nests in holes in hedgebanks or behind loose bark on tree trunks. More summer migrants are arriving, including yellow wagtails in wet meadows and ring ousels among the sprouting heather on the moors, and the first cuckoos should be heard in the treetops this week. Willow warblers are back and are singing their soft cadences in the bright green birchwoods.

The first cow parsley is opening and before long the country lanes will be edged with its white, lacy flowers. Buttercups are coming out in the fields: in the sunshine, the orange pollen on the stamens is reflected in the shiny yellow petals. Daisies dot the lawns and red deadnettle forms pink pools on waste ground.



The yellow wagtail

Horse-chestnut trees are like green towers; on some of them, the pyramidal white flowers are open. On hornbeam trees the long catkins dangle beside the half-open leaves. DJM

The Sovereign's Parade

George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, represented the Queen at The Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on April 9.

The following have been granted commissions, having successfully completed Commissioning Course No 982. The Sword of Honour was won by Junior Under Officer D.N. Graham and The Queen's Medal by Officer Cadet D.I.B. Walker.

N D E Abram, RHF, Kyle Acad, Ayr; E F Allen, RLC, Bryanston S; R J Allen, RLC Queens C, Taunton; D S Anders-Brown, REME, Canfield HS, Wigan; J M Anderson, AGC (PRO), Eaglesvale S, Zimbabwe; M T Aplin, AAC, Devenant Found S; M A Ashton, RLC, Welbeck C; M D Aspin, RLC, Welbeck C; D M G Barber, LD, Elizabeth C, Guernsey; M A Barker, R Irish (HSFT), Kingston VI Form C; N D Barley, PWRR, St George's S, Vancouver; A Biggs, R Anglian, St Edmund's C, Ware; A D Black, RLC, Bedales S; P R J Boothroyd, RA, Worksop C; C S Boud, REME, Chislehurst & Sidcup GS; A N Bowen, R Irish (HSFT), Methodist C, Belfast; O J Boyes, RE, McAuley S, Doncaster; S P Brietsche, AAC, Cresent Heights HS, Alberta CA; C P T Brown, REME, St Leonard's Mayfield S; R G Bullock, KORBR, Bonus Pastor S, London.

S J Clark, RLC, R Hospital S; D J Coen, RE, Trent C; P Corcoran, 9/12 L, Warwick S; L B Coy, REME, Welbeck C; D C Cradden, RE, Ratcliffe C; J E Crowe, R Irish (HSFT), Victoria C, Belfast; N W Cuffey, RLC, The Harvey GS; Q S Curran, REME, Knights Templar S, Baldock; G N Davies, RGJ, Hillcrest S, Kenya; J C Davies, RE, Truro S; A S Day, RE, Christ Hosp S; A Deeley, RGBWR, Christ's C, Finchley; D G Dickson, REME, Wellington C; J G Ellis, RWF, N Walsham HS; J V Erasmus, IG, Michaelhouse S, RSA; M Ferndale, Scots DG, Merchiston Castle S; C J Fisher, RTR, Dr Challoner's GS; M A Foote, RLC, Beaufort S, Gloucester; A R Forsyth, KOSB, Buckhaven HS; T P Foss-Smith, RA, Stowe S; A M Fox, RA, Rye St Anthony S, Oxford.

J E G Gibbs, A and SH, Glenalmond C; T A H Giffard, LG, St John's C, Southsea; M A T Gill, Para, Queens HS, RSA; S Godber, RLC, Brannel S, St Austell; D N Graham, LI, Wellington C; J R Greany, LG, Marlborough C; C Greenfield, AGC (PRO), Alleynes HS, Stafford; D J A Griffith, RA, St Peter's S; A D Griffiths, AGC (SPS), Corfe Hills S; L A Hadadine, RLC, Millais S, Horsham; S E Hall, REME, Welbeck C; J Hancock, RA, Wycliffe C; M J Heath, RHG/D, Shrewsbury S; D N Hockaday, RA, Corfe Hills S, Poole; B A F Hodgkiss, RTR, Rugby S; P W Hogg, R Irish, Rainey Endowed S; L V Horner, R Irish (HSFT), Teesside HS, Northallerton; S V D Hughes, R Signals, Ysgol J Bright S; E R Humphries, R Irish, Stamford S; D H James-Roll, R Anglian, The Leys S; D I Jardine, PWRR, Trent C; C M Jarvill, RE, Maltravers S, Westbury; I G Jenkins, RE, Whitgift S; S F Jenkinson, RLC, Hitchin Boys S; F K Johnson, RA, Bruton S for Girls; N G Joynes, RLC, Q Mary's GS, Walsall; S M Kaufman, RTR, George Heriot's S; E J Keats RA, Talbot Heath S, Bournemouth; M B Kelly RE, Ilford County HS; J A Kennedy, DWR, Billingham S; M H C Kieboom, RAMC, Manchester GS; R Knightly Brown, R Signals, Rendcomb C; P Lederer, RE, High S of Stirling; N J Lilley, AAC, The Woodlands S; R G Lilley, Cheshire, Huntington Sl, York; R V Lincoln, RE, Bournemouth S for Girls; J D Longfellow, RE, Mount St Mary's HS, Leeds; J R Lukey, QRL, Bish Stortford C; D Lynch, REME, Castledown SC, Andover.

J P Matthews, RWF, Ellesmere C; A R May, Para, Hallcross CS, Doncaster; J D McMahon, QLR, Rossall S; S J Miles, RLC, Richard Huish C; S D Miller, RE, Alleynes Boys S, Stevenage; D T Miller, RLC, Beckfoot GS, Bingley; J M Morgan, RLC, Gorseinon C, Swansea; G Nugent, AGC (PRO), Bryanston S; R J Orvis, RA, Sawston Village C; T R Ozanne, RA, K Edward VI S; A J C Pattison, RA, Sir G Monoux S; S P J Phillips, RE, Littlehampton CS; O A E Pile, Green Howards, Bryanston S; L G Pim, R Signals, Portsmouth GS; J C Plummer, RE, Stratford upon Avon GS; J C A Pope, RGJ, K Edward VI, Southampton; J S Pounds, Para, Shebbear S, Exeter; J L Power, RA, RGS High Wycombe; G G Pugh, RLC, Llandrindod HS.

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The following overseas cadets also passed out:
Bahrain: Sheikh Khalid Ali Al Khalifa. Belize: Alex Nolberto. Brunei: Addie Marjalfrie Bin Moh'd Jaafar. Ghana: Seth Odei Gyekye. Guyana: Keith Gerald Jaime. Jamaica: Luis Cheverria, Dervon Oliver Lewis, Tanya Alecia Spence. Kuwait: Nasser Badr Al Waheeb, Thamer Nasser Al Jebal. Lesotho: Kondwani Kakhobwe. Malawi: Gift Henry Njete. Malta: Andrew Harrison. Nepal: Libu Thapa, Santosh Karki. Abdullah Salim Bani-Arabah, Ali Hamad Ali Al Khambashi, Hamad Salim Al Mughiri. Qatar: Jassim Ali Al Attiyah, Meshaal Mohammed Al Attiyah. Swaziland: Thulani Abraham Msibi. Tanzania: Christian Adrian Ng'habi. UAE: Mohammed Khalfan Al Muherbi. Ukraine: Andriy Logvinenko. Zimbabwe: Raymond Chirume.

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A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." John 20.26 (NRSV).

BIRTHS

GUN CUNNINGHAME - On Easter Sunday, 4th April, to Marie-Anne (née Lerègle) and Julian. Un beau garçon Clément Henry Pierre Philippe, a brother for Arthur.

HILTON-SALFE - On March 18th, to Alison and Paul, a daughter, Kate Laura.

MAGONA - On April 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Adama (née Munu) and Alexander, a son, Talleh, a brother for Feimoh.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

STAUNTON:EASTBURY - Robert and Phyllis at St Michael's, Chester Square on April 12th 1939. Still at Oak Heads, Battle, E. Sussex.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

DEATHS

CANAVAN - Mark Gabriel aged 60 years died peacefully following a long illness at St Raphael Hospice, North Cheam, on the evening of Easter Monday 5th April 1999. Mark was a great master of The Times Crossword. His love, friendship, integrity and humour will be greatly missed by all his family and his many friends but most of all by his daughter Paula, his wife Pat and his brother-in-law Jimmy who was a son to him. A High Mass will be held at St Michael's Church, Pollards Hill, today (Monday 12th April 1999) immediately followed by a private cremation at South London Crematorium.

DOGGETT - Lilian Downing (Jill) aged 87 peacefully on Good Friday. Much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral 14th April St Mark's Pennington. Family flowers only donations to British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, SW1.

ESPOSITO - Peter Albert passed away suddenly on 4th April aged 42. Much loved husband to Dee, father of Peter-Jon, Emma-Louise and Katherine, son of Joyce, brother of Julia. Will be deeply missed by all family and friends. Service at St John's Church, Friern Barnet Road, N11 on Friday 16th April 10 am, followed by burial. Enquiries J.H. Kenyon Funeral Directors tel: (0181) 445-1651.

HEXTALL - Peter Hyde, on April 8th 1999, aged 74, after a long fight, endured with great courage. Dear husband of Barbara, and father of Tim, Nicholas and William. Proud grandfather of nine. There will be a private cremation. A service of thanksgiving will be held on Tuesday 25th May at St Andrew's Church, Steyning at 3 pm. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to Macmillan Cancer Relief, King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, GU29 0BL.

KRIGAS - John of Stretten Avenue, Cambridge, formerly of 5 Aiolidos Road, Aegaleo, Athens, Greece, died peacefully in hospital, on Tuesday April 6th 1999, after a long illness, aged 89 years. Husband of the late Anastasia and much loved father of Terence. Funeral Service at St Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church, Cambridge, on Thursday April 15th at 9.45 am. Flowers to Co-operative Funeral Service, 34 James Street, Cambridge.

MARTIN - At Orpington Hospital on April 7th. Mary Christina of West Wickham, deeply regretted by many friends. Reception Service at St Marks Catholic Church, West Wickham on Thursday April 15th at 4.30 pm. Requiem Mass on Friday April 16th at 11 am followed by interment at Elmers End. R.I.P.

McINTOSH - On April 9th Ruth aged 98 years. Will be sadly missed by her many friends. Service at Worthing Crematorium, Findon on Friday 16th April 1999 at 11.40 am. All enquiries to F.A. Holland & Son, Terminus Road, Littlehampton, Sussex, tel: (01903) 713939.

PARE - Nancy Eileen (Nan) died peacefully on 8th April. Funeral Service at St Michael's, Ledbury on Friday 16th April at 11.15am. Family flowers only. Donations to The Friends of Ledbury Cottage Hospital c/o Hawcutt Funeral Directors, 133, The Homend, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1BP.

RITCHIE - Richard (Dickie) peacefully on April 8, aged 88. Beloved husband of Daphne and much loved father of Carol, Ricky and Susan. Funeral private.

ROBERTS - Allan T.M. Roberts M.D., FRCP., after a short illness on April 8th at Cornwallis Court Nursing Home, Bury St Edmunds, beloved by his family, Sheila, Martin, Mary, Hannah and Michael. Private cremation, followed by thanksgiving service, at which all are welcome in St Peter's Church, Bury St Edmunds on Tuesday April 20th at 3 pm. Family flowers only. Donations to St Peter's Hospice, St Agnes Avenue, Bristol, BS4 2DU. Any enquiries to L Fulcher (01284) 754049.

RUDDLE - Nancy Margaret (née Allen). Wife of the late Sir Kenneth Ruddle TD DL of Langham Rutland on 8th April at the Rutland Memorial Hospital. Service of Thanksgiving at St Peter and St Paul Church Langham on April 19th at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to The Rutland Memorial Hospital and Langham Parish Church. Cheques payable to Fords of Oakham, 8 Church Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6AA.

SEARS - Angela, beloved wife of David and mother of James, Richard, Kate, Robert, Nicola and Camilla, died quietly on Thursday 8th April after a short illness. Funeral at Eltham Crematorium, Falconwood SE9 at 1 pm Thursday 15th April. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood (CLIC), 12/13 King Square, Bristol BS2 8JH.

WATTS - Peacefully on 6th April at his home in Sheffield John aged 51 years, dearly loved husband of Rhona and very dear father of Emily and Robert. Enquiries to John Heath & Sons 0114 2722222.

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THE EARL OF GUILFORD


"Hands-on farmer": Guilford at a country sports fair, 1975

The Earl of Guilford, landowner, died on March 26 aged 65. He was born on September 22, 1933.

THE 9th Earl of Guilford fought a long losing battle to develop and maintain Waldershare Park, his family seat in Kent since the 18th century. In a vivid illustration of the problems facing those who own historic houses but lack the funds to run them, he had recourse over the years to a catalogue of ingenious and desperate measures. These including ploughing up part of the ornamental garden to grow Christmas trees, and at one time turning half of the 90-room mansion into a henhouse, while the stables were given over to his pigs.

Lord Guilford thought he had found a solution to his problems 30 years ago, when he sold the property to a housing association which intended to convert it into retirement homes. But the plan fell through, and he bought the house back. He next proposed laying out a safari park in the grounds, in partnership with the zoo proprietor John Aspinall. This ran into local objections and planning obstacles, and Guilford, never very keen on the idea in any case, returned to the drawing board once more.

At one stage he even applied for permission to demolish part of the house. But although the structure had been largely rebuilt earlier this century, following a fire in 1913 which had gutted most of the Queen Anne original, the scheme was thwarted by a preservation order. He eventually sold the building to a property developer who converted the house and its stables into modern flats, while Guilford retained the surrounding park and farmland.

Edward Francis North was a descendant of the Lord North who was King George III's Prime Minister at the time of the American War of Independence. Tragedy soon overtook him. His father and his aunt were killed (and his mother badly injured) in 1940 by a mine which blew up on Sandwich Bay while they were out walking their dogs on a beach which was then part of the estate.

Inheriting the earldom from his grandfather 50 years ago, the young Edward went to Eton before completing his National Service as a trooper with an armoured car squadron of the Life Guards. He then went to Cirencester Agricultural College in preparation for taking over the 2,500-acre estate from his stepfather (his mother had remarried after the war).

Much of the land (now half that size) had been ploughed up during the war and he began work as a "hands-on" farmer, putting up fences, driving a tractor or planting trees. Despite being tall and thin, he was wiry and deceptively strong-armed.

He enjoyed becoming involved in public life. He was president of the Men of Kent and Kentish Men organisation, chaired the forestry section of the Kent Agricultural Society and did much for the school for deaf children in Margate. He was made a deputy lieutenant for Kent in 1976.

Although essentially a quiet, shy, gentle man he was a surprisingly gifted public speaker who could rise at a moment's notice and speak fluently without notes, displaying a dry sense of humour. But he chose not to take his seat in the House of Lords. He said that he did not have the time to fill the role properly and thought it wrong to treat the Upper House as a mere club.

His greatest pride and joy was a vintage fire engine, a silver wedding present from his wife. He used it to put out small fires on the estate and, dressed in fireman's kit, would drive it from time to time round the local villages. Perhaps it was just as well that he had it, for he was also seriously interested in fireworks. He enjoyed laying on bonfire nights on the estate and organising displays for local schools.

He was devoted to his wife Vere, whom he married in 1956 after meeting her on his uncle's yacht in the Mediterranean. Heartbroken when she died of cancer in 1992, Lord Guilford had been in poor health himself for several years. He is survived by their only son, Lord North, who now becomes the 10th Earl.

PETER DUFFY

Peter Duffy, QC, lawyer, died of lung cancer on March 5 aged 44. He was born on August 8, 1954.

IN A profession noted for its individualism, Peter Duffy truly stood out. In ten short years of practice, just two of them as a silk, he imposed himself on the fields of human rights and European Community law in a way that few others have ever done.

Many of his cases were of such interest and importance that they were known to the public at large. He acted for Diane Blood when the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority refused to allow her to be impregnated with her dead husband's sperm. The Court of Appeal accepted that the authority's refusal to allow her to export the sample for treatment abroad contravened the right of free movement of goods within the European Union.As so often, Duffy brought legal ingenuity into the service of what he considered a good cause.

His cases were often controversial. He played a leading role in the legal campaign waged by Compassion in World Farming to improve the lot of veal calves exported to other member states of the EU. In the area of sexual equality his contribution was unmatched. He argued the cases for homosexuals in the military, *Smith and Perkins*, the age of consent cases, *Wilde and Sutherland*, and the sadomasochism case, *Brown*.

Only three weeks before he died, when he was undergoing regular medical treatment, he represented Amnesty in the Pinochet appeal in the House of Lords. He argued it with typical flair and determination and without fee. He did not live to witness the result.

He was equally active in those aspects of Community law and human rights law which affect the commercial world. He acted for Sony in the George Michael litigation and was at the sharp end of expanding the fundamental rights of companies before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Peter Joseph Francis Duffy was educated at Wimbledon College and at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. He had a particular interest in international and public law, which he pursued both at Cambridge and at the University of Brussels. At the latter, he obtained a *licence spéciale en droit européen* with a rarely awarded grade, *la plus grande distinction*, a source of particular pride.

He was called to the Bar in 1978 and between 1979 and 1989 he taught full-time at Queen Mary and Westfield College, becoming visiting Professor of European Law at the University of Strasbourg. In 1981, with Professor Rosalyn Higgins (later Dame Rosalyn Higgins, the British judge at the International Court of Justice), he set up a masters' course in international human rights at the London School of Economics. He wrote prodigiously and became editor of the European Human Rights Reports.

An important part of Duffy's life concerned his practical commitment to human rights. He was called on by the International Executive Committee of Amnesty International and soon became the committee chairman. He was always ready to fly to some remote part of the world, at times at some personal risk, to plead a cause which he held dear.

In 1989 he decided to try out full-time practice at the Bar. He joined Four Essex Court, which later became Essex Court Chambers. Not one to wait for work to come to him, he embarked on a policy of writing widely.He had a column in the *Law Society Gazette*, and he was never known to turn down an invitation to speak at a conference or seminar. Duffy proved to be a fine advocate, as his elevation to silk in just eight years demonstrated. He had a complete mastery of his subject, but many lawyers have that. What made him such a successful advocate was his ability to present the argument so persuasively that it was sometimes difficult to believe that the contrary proposition was even arguable.

The rewards and prizes of a successful practice were beginning to arrive. He was chairman of the Bar European Group. He had been appointed an assistant recorder, but died just before the news was announced. Shortly before his death he was mooted in *The Times* as a candidate for the Lawyer of the Year award. But these are small change compared with what might have lain ahead.

He leaves a widow, Vivienne, and three young daughters; a son predeceased him.


Peter Duffy arriving at the House of Lords for the Pinochet hearing in January this year

CARDINAL RAUL SILVA HENRIQUEZ

Cardinal Raúl Silva Henriquez, former Archbishop of Santiago, died on April 9 aged 91. He was born in Santiago on September 27, 1907.

CARDINAL Silva Henriquez was an outspoken campaigner for human rights who ensured that the Roman Catholic Church in Chile was in the forefront of opposition to the military dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet. He once swore that he would shelter dissidents and opponents of Pinochet's regime under his bed, rather than hand them over to the secret police.

Raúl Silva Henriquez was born in the city of Talca in 1907. He gained a law degree from the Catholic University in Santiago in 1929 and was ordained priest nine years later. He became Archbishop of Santiago in April 1962, and a year later was made a cardinal. He went on to become one of the most influential and respected Church leaders in Latin America this century.

"There are more of the Gospel's values in socialism than there are in capitalism," the Cardinal once said. Such views were reflected in the modern Chilean Church as a whole, which on social questions had long taken a more progressive line than any other Latin American Church. But Silva Henriquez firmly opposed Marxism all his life, and was far from sharing the radical inclinations of some of the younger priests in Chile.

His rejection of all kinds of extremism, combined with some fairly sophisticated political skills, made him a natural mediator between the socialist Government of President Salvador Allende, elected in 1970, and the right-wing opposition. His efforts at promoting dialogue continued almost to the eve of the coup which overthrew Allende's chaotic regime in September 1973; the Marxist President and the Christian Democrat leader Patricio Aylwin were dining together at the Cardinal's house as late as August.

Two days after the armed coup, which brought General Pinochet to power, the Cardinal drafted a strong statement on behalf of the Chilean bishops condemning the violence of the takeover. In the subsequent months, as the full ruthlessness of the military junta became apparent, he seemed to take a less outspoken line, and was criticised by more radical priests for his caution. But the junta was always anxious to avoid a complete rupture with the Church if it could, and the Cardinal's measured approach at this time undoubtedly enabled the Chilean Church not only to survive comparatively unmolested, but to become the only tolerated and effective organised opposition to Pinochet's regime.

Not that the Church was entirely unscathed by events. Foreign priests were expelled from the country. Chilean priests found aiding the revolutionary opposition were arrested. Some were shot. And the Chilean Committee of Co-operation for Peace, set up by the Church soon after the coup to give legal aid to political prisoners and advice to people dismissed from their jobs for political reasons, was swiftly suppressed.

The Cardinal responded by establishing the Vicaria de Solidaridad. The vicariate, located in a huge colonial mansion in Santiago, became a refuge for victims of the dictatorship. Hundreds of widows of left-wing politicians and activists listed as "disappeared" stayed at the home and raised their children in it. It also provided rehabilitation for dozens of men and women who were released after months of torture in clandestine camps.

Cardinal Silva Henriquez was for many years the only recognised human rights campaigner to be allowed to visit torture victims in their cells. He toured Chile's police stations, prisons and military barracks to collect evidence of human rights abuses.

The vicariate was subjected to considerable harassment, as attempts were made to seize its incriminating files. The Cardinal and his colleagues were subjected to a thoroughgoing campaign of vilification and worse. Silva Henriquez received regular death threats, his parents' gravestones were defaced and then smashed, and shots were fired at his home.

Much of the information the vicariate had compiled was later used in the official report commissioned by the democratically elected Chilean Government at the end of the dictatorship. It included a list of 3,197 people who were killed or who disappeared at the hands of General Pinochet's secret police. The vicariate's work was recognised with the award of the Carter-Menil Human Rights Prize at the Carter Centre in Georgia in 1987.

That same year the Cardinal offered his services as mediator once again, this time between General Pinochet and his opponents. The Church's encouragement of dialogue undoubtedly helped to bring about Chile's eventual peaceful transition from military rule.

In a country — and a continent — accustomed to political polarisation and the violence it brings, Cardinal Silva Henriquez was esteemed as a symbol of dialogue and of peaceful change. When democracy in Chile was once again in sight, he refused to accept nomination as a compromise presidential candidate, as some opposition groups had hoped he might, but in his later years he had supporters from all sectors of Chilean society. As his health worsened over the past months, hundreds of leading Chilean figures visited him at the Salesian Order's home where he had spent the last years suffering from Alzheimer's.

President Eduardo Frei decreed five days of national mourning after his death, and thousands of Chileans, including politicians from the Left and from the Right, filed into the Catedral Metropolitana to pay their respects.


Cardinal Silva Henriquez with members of the protest group Families of the Detained and Disappeared, Santiago, 1978

STANLEY JONES

Stanley Jones, literary biographer, died on March 11 aged 83. He was born on March 2, 1916.

STANLEY JONES, the leading authority on the essayist William Hazlitt, was one of the great scholar-burrowers: a finder of facts and solver of puzzles, by discovery and by inference; verifier of authorship, and scourge of false attributions. Nobody in his generation did more to extend the knowledge of a major Romantic author. His scholarly character was a compound observable in other master archivists, of industry and modesty, enthusiasm and temperate judgment.

Readers of his biography *Hazlitt: From Winterslow to Frith Street* (1989) had the impression that Jones could say where Hazlitt was and what he did on every day of his life, rather more confidently than Hazlitt himself could have done. The biographer came to know of missed chances the subject only guessed at, of mixed motives the subject must have doubted anyone would ever unearth.

Stanley Jones began his academic life as a scholarship boy at Swansea Grammar School, where Dylan Thomas was two years above him. He was one of the first people to review Thomas's work, contributing a critical essay about some of his poems to the school magazine. In 1933 he gained a place at Cardiff University to read for two honours degrees in succession: in English and then in French. After taking firsts in both, he went on to Cambridge, where he began work on a doctorate, continuing it on a bursary which took him to Paris in 1938-39.

During the war he joined the Intelligence Corps and was stationed at Salisbury, where he first began to read Hazlitt seriously. As he did so, he realised that he was billeted only a stone's throw from Winterslow, where Hazlitt had done much of his writing, at the cottage he had shared with Sarah Stoddart Hazlitt and at Winterslow Hut (now the Pheasant Inn).

After the war, Jones concluded his work on Proust at McGill University in Canada, where he married his Canadian wife, Dorothea, whom he had met in Paris in 1939. They returned to England in 1946, the year in which Jones was awarded his Cambridge doctorate. In 1947 he was appointed to a lectureship at Glasgow University.

Surprisingly, he never lectured in any department of English literature. During his career in Glasgow he lectured exclusively on French literature, but his friends knew that his expertise extended much further. When a visiting lecturer of a structuralist disposition gave a shoddy paper about Joyce, Jones turned readily to the passages of *Ulysses* that exposed the weaknesses of his argument. Jones's colleagues in the French department soon found that his interest in Hazlitt was overtaking his work on Proust.

He was an exemplary teacher, always generous with his time to students, and he supervised graduates on a wide range of topics. He retired from the university in 1981.

Like Hazlitt he loved the theatre, food, wine, music and good company. Even during the illness of his final years, he remained convivial.

He was one of the first scholars to use all of Hazlitt's manuscripts, and he established dates for manyessays and letters. His pamphlet, *The Second Mrs Hazlitt: A Problem in Literary Biography* (1982), was the first full discussion of the identity and family history of Hazlitt's second wife, Isabella Bridgwater, which had remained unknown for more than 150 years.

Hazlitt fell out of fashion shortly after the Second World War, and for many years Jones was one of the few scholars working on him. This meant that he was the sole repository of much otherwise unavailable information. His legacy now is widespread and anonymous, in the generous way of such scholarship. It is in the large scattering of articles that trace allusions, and debts of other kinds, that award credit and praise and, sometimes, subtract blame where it was lodged unduly by less conscientious research.

He was tremendously generous with his erudition. Despite illness, he had managed in the years since publishing his biography to uncover much new information on Hazlitt, a good deal of which remains unpublished. He laid a foundation for the revival of Hazlitt that started in the 1970s, and his research underlies Duncan Wu's nine-volume *Selected Writings*, of which he was an advisory editor.

LOWELL FULSON

Lowell Fulson, blues singer and guitarist, died on March 8 in Long Beach, California, aged 77. He was born on March 31, 1921.

THERE are few bluesmen whose careers have been as enduring and as influential as that of Lowell Fulson. A performer from the American South West, he became one of the mainstays of the postwar West Coast blues scene, where he employed Ray Charles and inspired a young B. B. King.

When Elvis Presley finished his army service and returned to the studios for his *Elvis Is Back* album, one of the best tracks was his version of Fulson's *Reconsider Baby*. And when, a decade later, the soul singers Otis Redding and Carla Thomas wanted a suitable song to perform together, they chose Fulson's *Tramp* — and enjoyed an international bestseller. Fulson himself carried on performing and recording into the 1990s, his passion and talent undiminished.

Born in the Choctaw Indian Strip in Tulsa, Oklahoma, of mixed black and native American Indian extraction, Fulson began his musical education early. "My first singing was done in churches for picnics and socials. My grandfather was a good fiddler, one of my uncles played a guitar; another played mandolin." His first professional experience came with a string band before he teamed up in 1940 with the itinerant blues singer Alger "Texas" Alexander, who had recorded widely in the 1920s and 1930s. He stayed with Alexander for a year before marrying his first wife and moving to Gainesville in Texas, from where he was drafted into the Navy in 1943.

While stationed in Oakland, California, he met the record company boss Bob Geddins, who promised to record him after the war. Geddins, one of a new breed of independent record entrepreneurs who had begun to cater for the burgeoning rhythm and blues market, recorded Fulson and his brother Martin in 1946. Those early records were in a country-blues vein, but Fulson soon put a touring rhythm and blues-slanted band together, with Ray Charles as his piano player and musical director. Hits followed with records such as *Black Widow Spider Blues*, *Every Day I Have the Blues* and a number that he later gave to B. B.King, *Three O'Clock in the Morning*.



In 1953, while still constantly touring, he signed for the Chicago-based Chess label and enjoyed the biggest hit of his career with the moving and heartfelt *Reconsider Baby*, which became a blues standard. Although he stayed with Chess for several years, his tight and swinging brand of West Coast blues never fitted easily into the Chess label's repertoire of tough Chicago blues, and when Fulson moved to Los Angeles in the 1960s, he signed for the West Coast Kent label. There he recorded another big hit, the laconic *Tramp*, although its success in 1966 was eclipsed a year later by the cover version by Redding and Thomas.

He moved to the Southern label, Jewel, in the 1970s but found hits hard to come by in the soul and disco era, even though he tried to update his sound with the progressive album *In a Heavy Bag*. However, like many other bluesman of his era, he was able to find a new, enthusiastic — and white — audience in the 1980s and 1990s. A new recording contract with the Bullseye label and tours abroad further enhanced his reputation as an elder statesman of the blues.

His wife Sadie died in 1987. He leaves two sons and three daughters.

ON THIS DAY

April 12, 1906

The eruption of Vesuvius on April 7 destroyed the town of Ottaiano. More than a hundred people were killed in Naples; for miles around the volcano, villages and towns were cut off.

THE ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

NAPLES, April 11

EXCEPT for a slight renewal of activity about 9 o'clock yesterday evening, Vesuvius seems to have entered upon a period of quiet. The lava flow, as far as can be judged, is assuming more ordinary proportions and is no longer a source of danger. The rain of ashes, of hot sand, and gravel (*lapilli*), though considerably diminished, still continues and threatens further destruction to the villages which have borne the brunt of their fall. Ottaiano and San Giuseppe Vesuviano have suffered the most heavily in the destruction of buildings. San Giuseppe, deserted by its inhabitants, is almost buried in places by mounds of ash and gravel. Many of its houses are in ruins. At Ottaiano the municipal buildings have also fallen. The appearance of both places is indescribably wretched. Everything seems buried under a smothering weight of grey dust which represents the fallen ash, and all the air is full of ash that is still falling, so imperceptibly fine that it can hardly be distinguished by the eye, and yet so dense that one cannot see a hundred yards ahead and that even breathing is sometimes difficult.

On the coast line, in spite of the cessation of the lava flow, matters are hardly improved. Torre Annunziata still lies abandoned under its grey shroud, and the resources of Castellammare are taxed to the utmost to provide for refugees from the Annunziata and the neighbouring districts, who are said to number over 20,000, many of whom have escaped without food or clothing. Torre Greco is almost deserted, and great difficulty has been experienced in feeding the scanty remnants of its population left without bread or the possibility of obtaining it. I witnessed this morning a pathetic instance of the miserable confusion that reigns in the deserted towns. Two firemen, just landed from an American steamer, were in search of their families at Torre Greco. They found their homes abandoned and no sign of the whereabouts of the fugitives.

Naples is more deeply smothered in ash than ever. Yesterday evening it began once more to fall upon the city and continued until midday today. In view of possible disasters to the roofs the municipality have issued orders for its removal, but the work of removal will be enormous. I can only compare the effect to a heavy snowstorm in London. The same difficulty of progression, the same curious muffling of all sound save the occasional scraping of shovels . . .

The roads in Naples are horrible, but those towards Ottaiano or towards Torre Greco are almost impassable, a foot deep in the heavy dust and still encumbered with the carts of the unhappy refugees. It is impossible even to guess at the extent of the damage that has been done. The possibliry of actual loss to property and to life may not be great, but one cannot exaggerate the suffering that has been inflicted, which is out of all proportion to either. The British Vice-Consul assures me that in all his 60 years' experience of Naples he has never known either a worse eruption of Vesuvius or more disastrous consequences . . .

NEWS

Nato puts 600 planes into war

■ Nato reinforcements, adding another 90 aircraft and an extra carrier for the attacks on Yugoslavia, were unveiled yesterday as the latest evidence of the alliance governments' resolve to maintain a long-haul air campaign.

Although the number of troops deployed to Albania and Macedonia could also more than double in the next few weeks, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, reaffirmed that there would be no U-turn in Nato's policy to pursue the air campaign in preference to a ground offensive ....Pages 1, 4-9

Blair calls for new world order

■ Tony Blair today calls for a "new internationalism" in which the world community never again tolerates the brutal repression of an ethnic group by a dictator struggling to remain in powers ....Page 4

Princess ill

Princess Margaret is bedridden and receiving regular medical attention at Windsor Castle a month after burning her feet in a scalding bath while on holiday in the Caribbean, Buckingham Palace confirmed ....Pages 1, 2

Lords' reform

Tory chiefs will this week give the clearest signal yet that the party is on the brink of backing radical proposals for a directly elected House of Lords. A commission set up by William Hague will conclude that a future second chamber must be at the very least predominantly elected ....Page 1

Euro support

Tony Blair has won a fresh boost in his campaign to win public support for the euro with a new survey showing that some two thirds of medium-sized businesses are in favour of joining. Sixty-five per cent of 200 managing directors representing firms with turnovers of between £1 million and £100 million said that the United Kingdom should join the single European currency ....Page 2

Bafta revenge

In A display of the revenge that was such a popular feature of the Elizabethan theatre, the Australian actress Cate Blanchett beat Gwyneth Paltrow to the Best Actress award at the 51st British Academy Awards ....Page 3

Royal obedience

Reports that Sophie Rhys-Jones will promise to obey Prince Edward at the royal wedding of the year on June 19 are premature, Buckingham Palace said. Page 11

GCSE howlers

A myth is a female moth and Joan of Arc was burned to a steak, according to GCSE candidates who have come top of the class in misunderstanding and inspired guesswork ....Page 13

Ulster crisis

Sinn Fein and the Ulster Unionists will go to Stormont tomorrow to try to salvage the Northern Ireland peace process, which is on the verge of collapse. The two sides are as polarised as ever over the decommissioning of IRA arms ....Page 14

Rich women

The twin daughters of the late Robert Maxwell are among a growing number of women newcomers to the list of the richest people in Britain ....Page 15

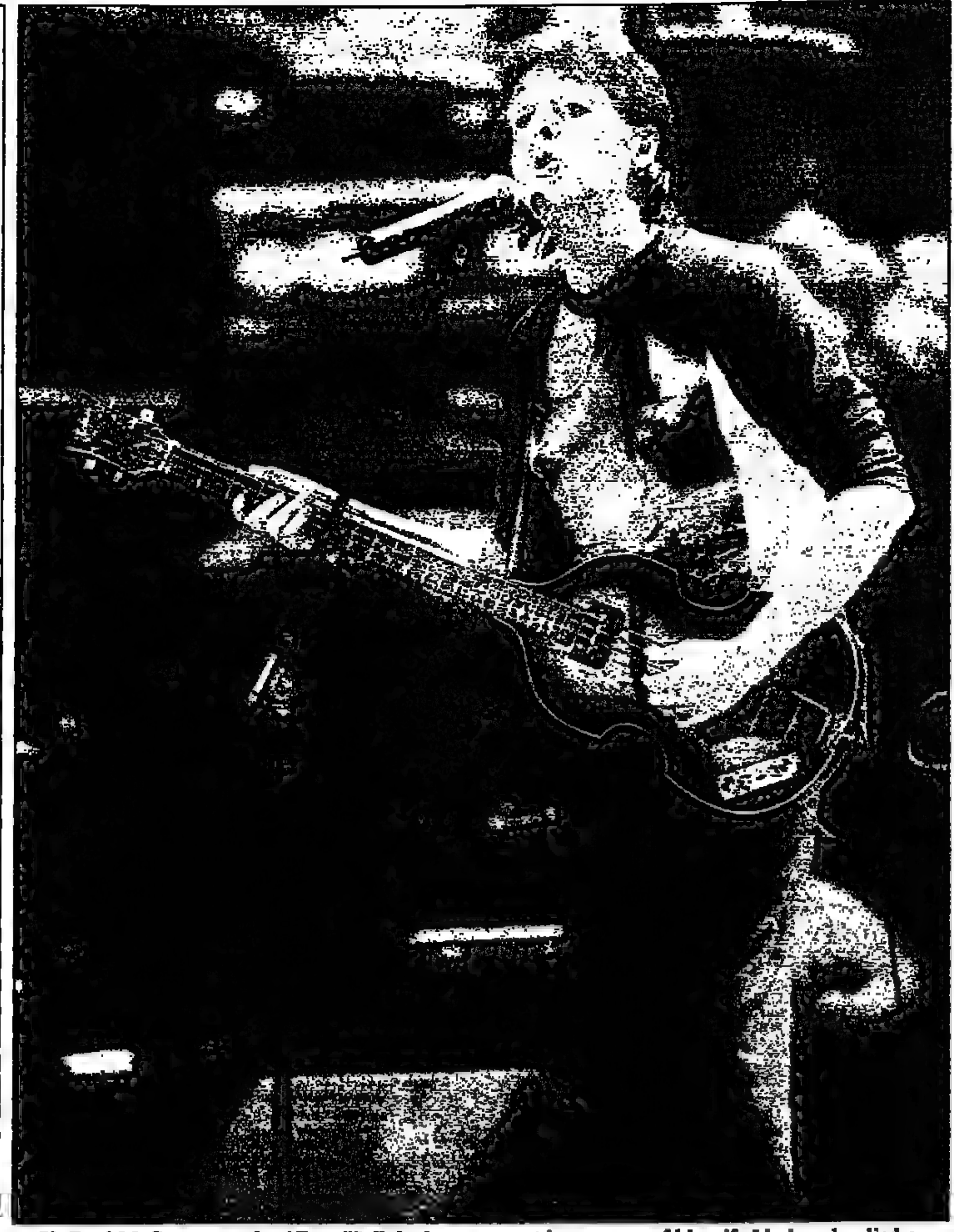
Missile test anger

India test-fired its Agni II ballistic missile, breaking a five-year period of restraint and drawing global expressions of concern. Britain and the United States voiced worry and regret, giving a warning that the test would provoke Pakistan into a similar military response ....Page 16

And it isn't even spring

■ The coldest spring in 100 years left the bewildered citizens of Los Angeles shivering at the weekend — if they were not skiing or gazing inland from the beach at scenes that might have been from Switzerland. Up to a foot and a half of snow blanketed the mountains and temperatures on the fringes of Los Angeles County plunged lower than those in parts of Alaska ... Page 16

SEAN DEMPSEY



Sir Paul McCartney at the Albert Hall during a concert in memory of his wife Linda, who died a year ago. A host of pop stars performed in aid of the Animaline charity. Review, page 20

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ NAZI ART
The question mark hanging over hundreds of paintings at the Tate Gallery

■ LAW
The public image of the JP is still that of the middle-aged, middle-class do-gooder. So is he?



Rugby union: Scotland were crowned winners of the final Five Nations Championship after Wales secured an unlikely one-point victory over England with a dramatic last-minute try at Wembley Stadium ....Pages 27,34,35

Football: Alan Shearer scored two goals to sink Tottenham Hotspur and take Newcastle United to their second successive FA Cup Final. In the other semi-final Arsenal and Manchester United drew 0-0 and must replay ....Pages 28,29

Golf: Colin Montgomerie was carrying the hopes of British golf in what promised to be a pulsating final round of the US Masters at Augusta ....Page 32

Motor racing: Mika Hakkinen, the world champion, driving a McLaren, won the Brazilian Grand Prix ....Page 33

Boxing: A lack of stamina that could one day cost him dear did not prevent Naseem Hamed retaining his WBO featherweight title against Paul Ingle ....Page 33

Rugby league: St Helens's leadership of the JJB Super League was consolidated ....Page 39

Market fears: International markets are braced for a nervous start to the week after a shock profits warning from Compaq, the world's largest personal computer manufacturer, raised a large question mark ....Page 52

Telecom Italia: The Italian phone giant is in search of a white knight following the collapse of its defence strategy over the weekend when it failed to secure a quorum at a vital shareholder meeting ....Page 52

Supermarket job losses: J Sainsbury is to announce the redundancy of 650 managerial staff this week as part of a programme of drastic cost-cutting measures ....Page 52

War and speech: In the battle of words political leaders rely upon winning phrases — and behind many great speeches there is an army of wordsmiths ....Page 17

Urban peasant: Simple shapes in linen, cheesecloth and rosebud prints give a rustic look that you can wear in the city ....Page 18

Talent scout: Concetta Lanciaux has been bringing fashion's biggest names to the world's attention, and brokered many successful business 'marriages' between designers and couture houses ....Page 19

Preview: Tony Marchant's adaptation of *Great Expectations* (BBC2, 9pm) **Review:** For all his drive James Goldsmith could only wound his targets ....Pages 50, 51

Thunder in Ulster

The urgent need now is not for indulgence of terrorist wishes, but an insistence on democratic rights against those who demand flexibility without ever showing it. Page 23

The pace quickens

Intensified diplomacy must be linked to the destruction of Yugoslavia's military machine. And the sooner Russia joins the diplomatic push, the sooner the airstrikes will stop ....Page 23

Nouveaux riches

The most curious thing about the current generation of multimillionaires is how little they flaunt their wealth ....Page 23

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The many good people inside the BBC have not gone native; they are native. The candidate I would go for, to save the Corporation, would be Andrew Neil ....Page 22

PETER RIDDELL

The question is this: can you be both Scots-Welsh and British? And, equally intractable, can you be both British and European? ....Page 22

The Earl of Guilford, landowner; **Peter Duffy,** lawyer; **Cardinal Raúl Silva Henríquez,** former Archbishop of Santiago; **Lowell Fulson,** bluesman; **Stanley Jones,** literary scholar ....Page 25

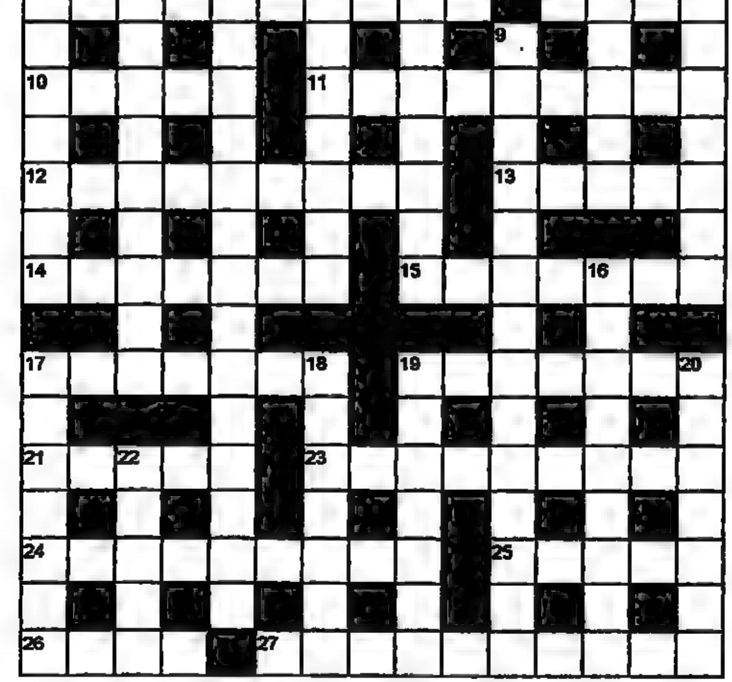
Balkans war; teachers' pay; musical intruments museum ....Page 23

Jones in concert: In her Dublin gig, Grace Jones proves that despite the dud films and the unreleased albums she remains a great performer and true star ....Page 20

New York theatre: The Great White Way has been taken over by the British ....Page 21

10, 18, 25, 32, 35, 36. Bonus: 2

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,075



ACROSS

1 Old Nick's main following group (10).
6 Rewards for recovery of this Turner (4).
10 Source of oil painter used, following Constable (5).
11 Intelligence network that's expected to bear fruit (9).
12 Lawyers getting wealthy, mostly by sound assistance in defence work (9).
13 Celebrated return of French heavyweight (5).
14 Recession showing up more on the coast (7).
15 Record incorporated in stone tablet in part of church (7).
17 Take the lead – or quietly retreat (7).
19 Boy in front of girl found on one knee (7).
21 Feature article on Chelsea or Derby, say (5).
23 They make a striking pair, performing Spanish dance (9).
24 Reckless individual's crazy road speed (9).
25 Ran into a learner that's in the road (5).
26 An inclination to swindle (4).
27 Rod railwaymen applied to points for tender (5.5).

DOWN

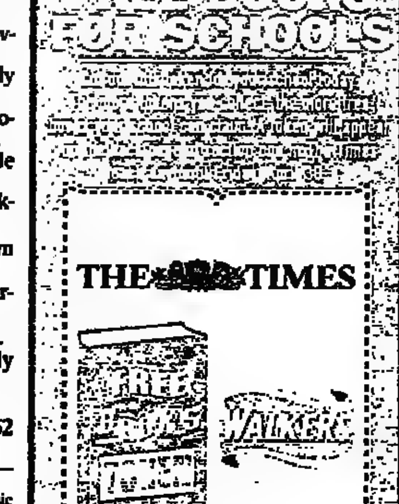
1 Grim mother having concern about baby, initially (7).
2 Not beyond redemption, note moral tale (9).
3 More serious party song included – that contributes to the atmosphere (9.5).
4 Effects of Silver being on board vessel not fully seen (7).
5 They eliminate blunders as piece finally is accepted (7).
7 Make an impression in race having displaced leader (5).
8 Tramp half-mile – or move only by a foot (7).
9 The land near rocky island producing a remote ancestor (11.3).
16 Work over and drastically restyle synthetic material (9).
17 Ring fighter in film, on road working out (7).
18 Tendency to lose head to charm (7).
19 Send boat on its way using peremptory order to go (4.3).
20 Excuse a crack about bishop (7).
22 Obtain summer clothing shortly like this (2.3).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 21,074 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 52

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.12 am — Sun sets: 7.51 pm
Moon sets: 3.04 pm — Moon rises: 4.49 am
New moon April 16
London 7.51 pm to 6.10 am
Bristol 8.01 pm to 6.20 am
Edinburgh 8.12 pm to 6.14 am
Manchester 8.04 pm to 6.15 am
Penzance 8.11 pm to 6.34 am



FORECAST

☐ **General:** cool and blustery with fleeting sunny spells and showers.
☐ **London, E Anglia, E Midlands, E England:** sunny spells but showers by afternoon. Fresh W-SW wind. Max 13C (55F)
☐ **SE England, Central S & SW England:** sunny spells, showers, strengthening W wind. Max 13C (55F)
☐ **W Midlands, Central N & NE England:** bright start, showers developing, some heavy. Moderate to fresh W wind. Max 11C (52F)
☐ **Channel Islands:** overnight rain clearing but risk of afternoon showers. Strong to near-gale W to NW wind. Max 10C (50F)
☐ **Wales, NW England, Lake District, IoM:** windy, brief sunny spells, plenty of showers, some heavy. Fresh W-NW wind. Max 11C (52F)
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** sunny intervals, isolated showers becoming heavier this afternoon. Light W-NW wind freshening later. Max 10C (50F)
☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll:** isolated showers turning to rain this afternoon. Strengthening N-NW wind. Max 9C (48F)
☐ **Moray Firth, NE & NW Scotland:** increasingly cloudy with showers, some heavy. Strengthening N-NW wind. Max 8C (46F)
☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy and wet. Strong N-NE wind. Max 7C (45F)
☐ **Northern Ireland:** frequent showers, some heavy. Strong to gale NW wind. Max 12C (54F)
☐ **Irish Rep:** bright spells, showers, some heavy. Strong W-NW wind. Max 11C (52F)
☐ **Outlook:** much colder with strong N-NW winds and showers or rain.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

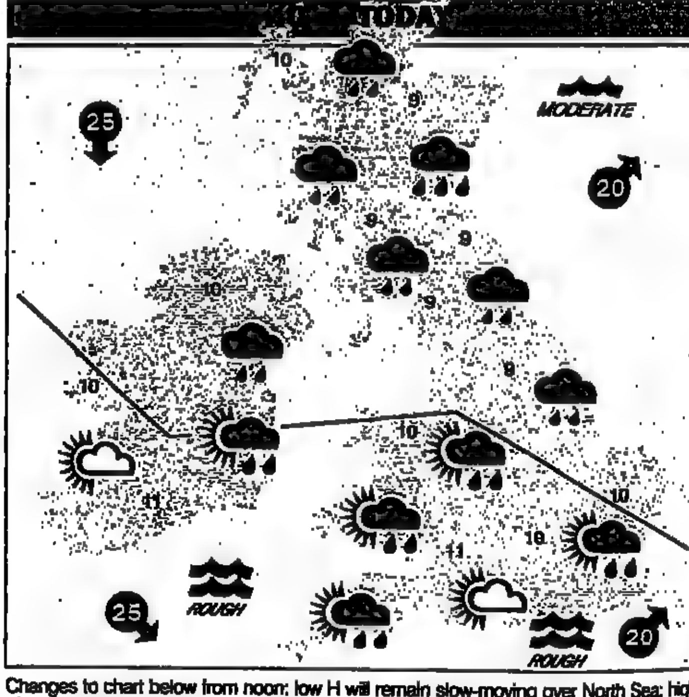
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	3.8	0.04	11	52	r	Leeds	7.5	0.01	12	54	b
Anglesey	9.0	0.01	11	52	s	Lerwick	6.4	0.06	8	46	sh
Aspatria	6.2	0.07	10	50	r	Leuchars	3.3	0.01	11	52	s
Aviemore	1.7	0.13	9	48	r	Littlehampton	10.2	-	14	57	s
Belfast	1.3	0.09	10	50	r	London	9.1	0.01	15	59	s
Birmingham	6.6	-	13	55	s	Lowestoft	8.2	-	13	55	s
Bognor R	10.7	-	14	57	s	Manchester	7.1	0.01	12	54	s
Bournemth	11.5	-	14	57	s	Morecambe	7.8	0.01	11	52	s
Bristol	11.1	-	11	52	s	Newcastle	8.0	-	11	52	s
Buxton	7.4	0.02	11	52	b	Newquay	7.7	0.01	11	52	s
Cardiff	11.3	-	12	54	s	Norwich	7.4	-	13	55	s
Clacton	9.7	-	13	55	s	Oxford	10.2	-	13	55	s
Cleethorpes	8.1	-	13	55	s	Penzance	9.5	0.01	14	57	s
Colwyn Bay	8.8	-	14	57	s	Poole	10.7	-	16	61	s
Cromer	8.8	-	12	54	s	Prestatyn	X	-	12	54	s
Edinburgh	5.2	0.02	10	50	r	Ross on Wye	10.1	-	14	57	s
Eskdalemuir	2.8	0.12	9	48	r	Saunton Sands	X	-	12	54	s
Exmouth	11.0	-	14	57	s	Scarborough	11.5	-	12	54	s
Fishguard	8.5	0.02	11	52	d	Shrewsbury	8.0	0.01	12	54	s
Folkestone	9.0	-	14	57	s	Skegness	8.5	-	13	55	s
Glasgow	2.8	0.19	10	50	r	Southport	X	0.01	X	X	s
Hastings	10.0	-	13	55	s	Southsea	10.2	-	15	59	s
Hayling I.	11.2	-	14	57	s	Stornoway	1.5	0.28	8	46	r
Herne Bay	6.3	-	15	59	s	Swanage	10.7	-	13	55	s
Hove	6.2	-	13	55	b	Tenby	9.4	0.01	12	54	s
Hunstanton	7.7	-	13	55	s	Tiree	1.1	0.44	9	48	r
Isle of Man	7.6	0.01	11	52	s	Torquay	10.6	-	X	X	s
Isle of Wight	12.0	0.01	12	54	s	Weymouth	11.9	-	14	57	s
Jersey	11.0	0.02	13	55	s						
Kinloss	2.1	0.03	10	50	r						

Yesterday: highest day temp: Poole, Dorset, 16C (61F); lowest day max: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 7C (45F), highest rainfall: Tiree, Inner Hebrides, 0.44ins; highest sunshine: Isle of Wight, 12 hrs

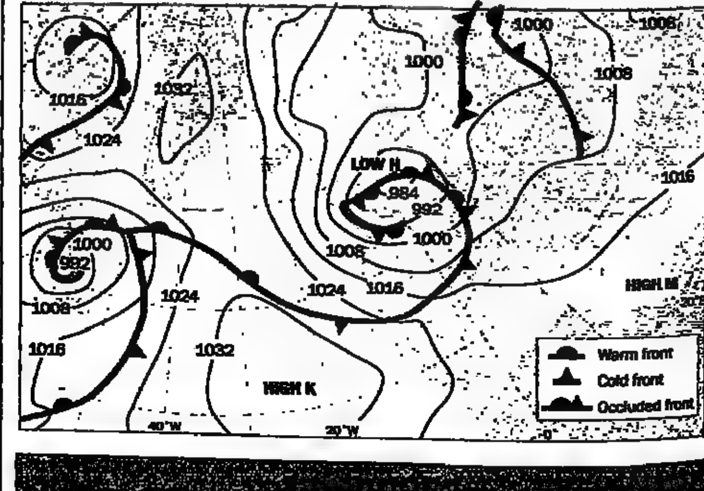
ABROAD

Ajaccio	15	59	f	Cologne	14	57	s	Madrid	16	61	s	Rome	13	55	r
Akrotiri	20	68	s	C'phagn	9	48	c	Majorca	12	54	d	Salzburg	9	48	c
Alex'dria	21	70	s	Corfu	19	66	f	Malaga	20	68	s	S Frisco	9	48	s
Algiers	16	61	f	Dublin	15	59	f	Malta	18	64	s	Santiago	18	64	s
Amst'dm	11	52	c	Dubrovnik	11	52	r	Melbourne	19	66	s	S Paulo	X		
Athens	19	66	s	Faro	23	73	s	Mexico C	27	81	s	Seoul	14	57	f
Bahrain	27	81	s	Florence	X			Miami	28	82	s	Singapore	30	86	r
Bangkok	34	93	f	Frankfurt	13	55	f	Milan	18	64	s	Stockholm	13	55	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Funchal	23	73	s	Montreal	7	45	s	Strasb'rg	15	59	f
Barcelona	16	61	s	Geneva	12	54	s	Moscow	7	45	c	Sydney	21	70	f
Beijing	18	64	s	Gibraltar	20	68	s	Munich	10	50	c	Tangier	23	73	s
Beirut	18	64	f	Helsinki	8	46	c	Nairobi	25	77	f	Tel Aviv	20	68	f
Belgrade	15	59	f	Hong K	26	79	f	Naples	14	57	f	Tenerife	25	77	s
Berlin	9	48	s	Innsbruck	11	52	c	N Delhi	35	95	s	Tokyo	15	59	s
Bermuda	22	72	s	Istanbul	18	64	s	N York	9	48	r	Toronto	6	43	c
Biarritz	14	57	f	Jeddah	28	82	s	Nice	17	63	f	Tunis	17	63	f
Bordeaux	17	63	c	Jo'burg	25	77	s	Oslo	12	54	f	Valencia	20	68	s
Brussels	15	59	c	L Palmas	23	73	s	Paris	15	59	f	Vanc'ver	7	45	f
Budapest	17	63	s	Le Touquet	10	50	f	Perth	25	77	f	Venice	14	57	c
B Aires	19	66	s	Lisbon	22	72	s	Prague	11	52	f	Vienna	14	57	c
Cairo	23	73	s	Locarno	17	63	s	Reykjavik	5	41	s	Warsaw	13	55	f
Cape Tn	26	79	s	L Angeles	14	57	s	Rhodes	19	66	s	Wash'ton	19	66	s
Chicago	5	41	f	Luxembg	13	55	s	Rio de J	21	70	f	Wellington	15	59	X
Ch'church	16	61	X	Luxor	28	82	s	Riyadh	27	81	s	Zurich	12	54	f

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: Low H will remain slow-moving over North Sea; high K expected to drift slowly west with little change in pressure; high M will lose its identity



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	10:18	3.5	23:03	3.7	Liverpool	8:00	7.9	20:35	8.0
Avonmouth	3:37	10.6	16:10	11.0	London Bridge	10:32	5.9	22:56	5.9
Belfast	7:39	2.9	20:20	3.0	Lowestoft	6:44	2.1	18:33	2.2
Cardiff	3:23	9.9	15:56	10.3	Margate	8:50	4.0	21:06	4.1
Devonport	1:58	4.5	14:46	4.6	Milford Haven	2:51	5.4	15:24	5.6
Dover	7:54	5.5	20:22	5.8	Newquay	1:50	5.5	14:22	5.6
Dublin	8:33	3.4	21:15	3.6	Oban	3:05	3.2	15:32	3.1
Falmouth	1:29	4.3	14:17	4.4	Penzance	1:18	4.5	13:51	4.5
Greenock	9:35	2.8	21:51	2.8	Portland	3:14	1.3	16:06	1.4
Harwich	8:38	3.3	20:57	3.3	Portsmouth	8:16	3.8	20:56	4.1
Holyhead	7:17	4.7	19:57	4.8	Shoreham	7:55	5.1	20:38	5.3
Hull (Albert D)	3:06	7.2	15:19	7.4	Southampton	7:46	3.8	20:29	4.0
Ilfracombe	2:35	7.3	15:08	7.5	Swansea	3:00	10.5	15:34	10.7
King's Lynn	3:21	5.1	15:30	5.6	Tees	0:20	9.1	12:33	9.2
Leith	11:27	4.5	-	-	Walton-On-Naze	8:30	3.5	20:52	3.6

All times GMT Heights in metres.

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TIMES SPORT
17 PAGES
MONDAY APRIL 12 1999



Point of no return: Gibbs caps his marvellous run by diving over the England line to score the try that decided the championship in Scotland's favour at Wembley yesterday. Photograph: Huw Evans

Wales stage grandest finale

David Hands, Rugby Correspondent, salutes Celtic triumphs on the final day of 89 years of the Five Nations Championship

SPORT does not come much better, nor embrace so many twists and turns, as the last episode of rugby union's Five Nations Championship. Next year, five become six, with the addition of Italy, and they have a mighty legacy to live up to after a Sunday upon which English hopes of a grand slam with which to conclude the millennium disappeared down a Welsh mine and Scotland were left as holders of the championship for the first time since 1990.

The drama of Wales's 32-31 injury-time win over England at a tumultuous Wembley enhanced in the most brilliant light possible Scotland's 36-22 victory over France in Paris on Saturday. Their five tries in an outrageous first half — one of them, from Gregor Townsend, earning the fly half a nap hand against all four championship opponents and Italy — gave them the sniff of a title that most critics believed to be beyond them in mid-season.

England may have been denied yesterday but since 1910, when France joined, they have won the most championships - 27. Wales won 26, France 20, Ireland 14 and Scotland 13.

Yet they had to rely on their Celtic cousins from Wales to build on earlier victories over France and Italy. Indeed, Scotland had to wait until the 82nd minute of the match at Wembley before Wales took the lead, exploded theories of English omnipotence and relegated France, winners of the grand slam in 1997 and 1998, to holders of the wooden spoon in 1999.

That Scotland carried off the Five Nations trophy (first presented in 1993) for the first time only on points difference from England is neither here nor there. They have played such positive rugby this season — even against England, when they registered three tries but lost on goal kicks — and suffered such cruel luck with injuries that few could resist their claim to be the team of the season.

What a wonderful championship, sponsored by Lloyds TSB, it has been. That France have proved to be such a fading force has, certainly, detracted from the spectacle overall, but Scotland and Wales have compensated for that in full measure. New Zealand can claim some of the credit for that, through Graham Henry, the Wales coach, and a clutch of influential players — the Leslie brothers and Glenn Metcalfe for Scotland, Shane Howarth and Brett Sinkinson for Wales — but if they have brought a more rigorous, accurate approach from home-bred players, so much the better.

Nor could Wales's victory have come at a better time: next season, they host the fourth World Cup and will do so on the back of significant wins at senior, A, under-21 and under-19 levels this season. For all the politics that have infected the game in the Principality, there has been a resuscitation of native skills on the field.

Henry suggested last night that England might not have taken enough respect for his team on to Wembley's wide open spaces with them. "There is nothing like earning respect out on the field, it's a huge emotion," he said. That Henry believes England still to be the strongest team in the northern hemisphere is an arguable point: they will not be the best while they continue to squander scoring chances in the way that they have throughout this championship.

England did so against France and they did again yesterday. "We are shattered," Clive Woodward, the coach, said. "There is not a lot I can say to the players, because the tactics were right, the selections were right, but we lost the game."

Even in the moment of the Welsh victory, Jim Telfer, the Scotland coach, whose Five Nations swansong this was, remained unflustered — outwardly at least. "I rarely get emotional," Telfer said, "but when Neil Jenkins had that last kick, I was watching and saying: 'Please get one more over.'

"It would have been better if we had won a grand slam, but this championship is almost as good as Durban [when the British Isles won the series against South Africa.] Didn't Neil Jenkins win that one as well?

"This is one of the great days. On Saturday, we won a game; yesterday, we won a championship. It is a very good feeling. It gives us a great lift for the World Cup."

Instead of taking off for Australia in May for their World Cup camp in a cloud of euphoria, England will do so still uncertain of their true worth. Wales will tour Argentina this summer knowing that they still have a long road to travel, but believing that they have a motor in place that will drive them forward. Scotland, who visit South Africa but play no internationals, can cement their achievements in low-key circumstances for which they will be wiser when they resume in August.

As for the Five Nations itself, an 89-year-history has reached a superb conclusion. There have been many moments to savour, but few championships have matched the rollercoaster ride of this last one.

Tim Rodber, the England lock, sits dejected in defeat

HOW THEY FINISHED

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	4	3	0	1	120	79	6
England	4	3	0	1	103	78	6
Wales	4	2	0	2	109	126	4
Ireland	4	1	0	3	66	90	2
France	4	1	0	3	75	100	2

RESULTS

Feb 6: Ireland 9 France 10, Scotland 33 Wales 20.
Feb 20: England 24 Scotland 21, Wales 23 Ireland 29,
Mar 6: Ireland 15 England 27, France 33 Wales 34.
Mar 20: England 21 France 10, Scotland 30 Ireland 13.
Apr 10: France 22 Scotland 36,
Apr 11: Wales 32 England 31.

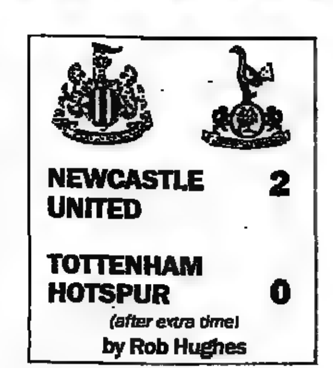


Jenkins kicks the winning conversion deep in stoppage time

FA Cup: Newcastle United book Wembley return as captain delivers extra-time double

Shearer elbows Tottenham aside

THERE is only one team at Wembley and, it seems, only one player in the country capable of scoring the goals to put them there. After two FA Cup semi-finals had been barren for a total of almost four hours yesterday, Alan Shearer stepped up to score a penalty and then, with a shot of sweet violence from outside the area, to put beyond doubt the case for Newcastle United to defeat Tottenham Hotspur.



NEWCASTLE UNITED 2

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 0

(after extra time)

by Rob Hughes

The drama of the second semi-final had to be hauled through a long, sometimes tedious afternoon at Old Trafford, racked by organised tension and caution and, at times, streaked by malevolence. From early in the encounter, Shearer, with his elbow blatantly in the face of Mauricio Taricco, set the tone.

He was a man out of sorts with himself, bitter, it would appear, at his lack of decisive pace since he sustained his serious ankle injury last year. Mean of spirit, he had the Tottenham half of the 53,609 crowd chorusing that he was a cheat. He had Sol Campbell complaining to the referee about his constant misdemeanours, and he even had the Newcastle players groaning that their captain, the England captain, seemed unwilling to throw himself into the fray with the same selfless, at times reckless disregard for the physical outcome that was coursing through the blustery, fevered afternoon.

By the time that Shearer turned himself from villain to hero, the air had been blackened by the refusal of Paul Durkin, the referee, to give Tottenham a penalty when, in the 58th minute, Nicos Dabizas rose to handle the ball from a free kick by Carr. It was — or from the stands it certainly looked — an injustice, and on such are the fortunes of the Cup won and lost. Maybe, for the first time since 1955, Newcastle are going to celebrate a victory at Wembley, whether it is over Arsenal, who denied them a year ago, or Manchester United.

Sir John Hall, now departed the inner boardroom of St James' Park, had always said that his dream was a team of Geordies. Instead, around the home boy, Shearer, who cost them £15 million, they are happy to include players from Greece, Peru, Germany and Croatia. How did they and the other foreigners, including David Ginola, Tottenham's Cup talisman, get drawn into the English passion that has Cup semi-finals running at a pace faster than the mind can control? It is a pace that takes its toll on limbs and, predictably, the first to surrender to it were those familiar injury victims, Steve Howey, for Newcastle, and Darren Anderton, for Tottenham.

Howey fell on the half-hour — a player with class stricken so often as if his tissue were made of glass. This time it appeared to be a calf injury and for Anderton, in the fiftieth minute, it was a hip.

With so many boots raised so high, there was also a player, Andy Sinton, kicked out of the game by a high, two-footed lunge from Andrew Griffin that should have merited more than one of the six yellow cards of this fierce combat. Indeed, cautions came more than thrills. For Tottenham, in the second minute, there had been a spectacular, dipping volley from Sherwood, fisted over the bar by Given. For Newcastle, a collection of individuals, they could claim only that Nolberto Solano should at least have hit the target when he shot low outside the near post.

So it wore on, the Tottenham supporters standing whenever Ginola was on the ball and then slumping back into their seats when, with Robert Lee detailed to augment the smothering role on the Frenchman by Griffin, the magic would not happen.

George Graham, the Tottenham manager, has instilled an Arsenal-type stubbornness into the Worthington Cup winners, but at the price of style. Ruud Gullit is on his way to Wembley not because his Newcastle team breathed more quality or more joy into the game, but because they at least managed to overrun Tottenham through the expedient of passing and moving.

Of course, Graham's wrath was vented at officialdom. "When he [Durkin] looks back at it [the handball by Dabizas] on video he will see what a bad decision he made — one of many in my opinion," Graham said. "What was he watching? If he did watch the flight of the ball, he must have seen it go to hand. And I think if we'd got that penalty we would have won the game. Trust me on that."

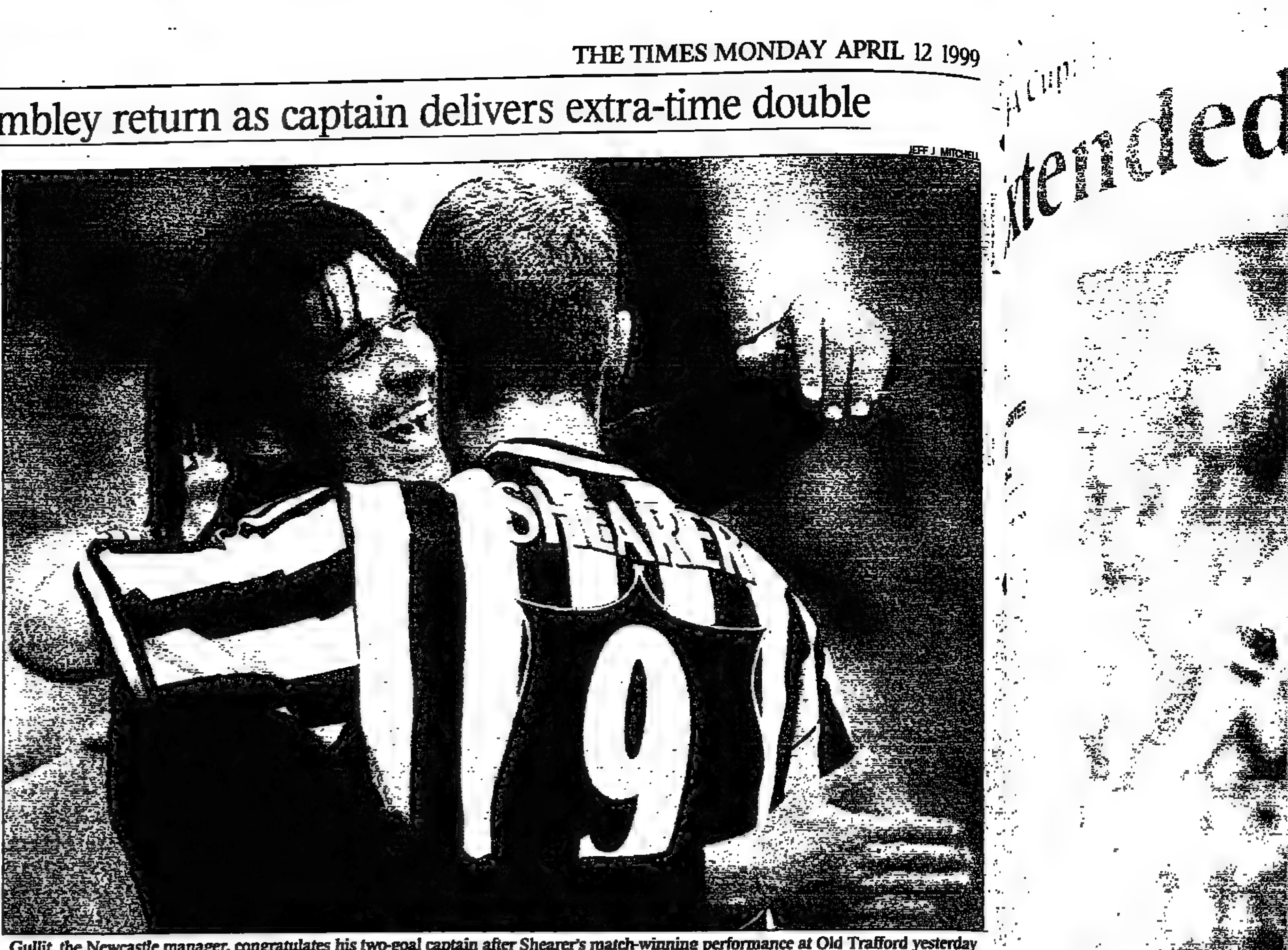
The penalty that the referee did see came after 108 minutes. Shearer and then Duncan Ferguson, the substitute, who under another manager might well have replaced Shearer himself, had each been denied by fingertip saves from Ian Walker. And then, when Speed played the ball in, when Ferguson flicked it on, it was the hand of Campbell that Durkin saw knock the ball down. Shearer sent Walker the wrong way from the penalty spot.

To crown his day, to put the final deception on this semi-final, another substitute, Silvio Maric, wonderfully turned the ball back and Shearer, yards outside the penalty box, with almost languid yet at the same time ferocious force from his right foot, guided the ball as if by radar, high and higher still, until it shot over the left shoulder of the goalkeeper and into the top corner. A Geordie, one of the few, had triumphed.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S Given — A Griffin, S Howey (sub: A Hughes, 34min), N Dabizas, W Barton — R Lee, D Hamann, G Speed, N Solano (sub: D Ferguson, 75) — T Ketsbaia (sub: S Maric, 105), A Shearer

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, L Young, S Campbell, M Taricco — D Anderton (sub: A Sinton, 50; sub: A Nielsen, 83), T Sherwood, S Freund, D Ginola (sub: S Iversen, 75) — C Armstrong, L Ferdinand

Referee: P Durkin



JEFF J MITCHELL

Gullit, the Newcastle manager, congratulates his two-goal captain after Shearer's match-winning performance at Old Trafford yesterday

Central figure in search of new identity

Kevin McCarra says that the England striker is not the player he once was

Alan Shearer repels personal questions with platitudes about collective effort but, for once, he really was indebted to the service that others provide. Newcastle United, too, owe their place in the FA Cup final to one benefactor. In a lull in the first half, Sol Campbell handed a water bottle to Shearer, but no one could have guessed just how far the Tottenham defender's generosity to an England teammate would run.

His unfathomable decision to handle the ball invited Shearer to open the scoring with a penalty. Furthermore, the thrill of the breakthrough stayed with the centre forward, its exhilaration ringing out of the fiercely sliced 20-yarder with which he removed all doubts over the outcome.

Yet Shearer has still to dispel reservations about his condition. A terrible Achilles injury cost him much of last season and, since his return, his famed power has assumed a new, less decisive character. Often, his strength is now like that of a defender and it sees him wrestling with opponents rather than bursting free of them. In this semi-final, Tottenham fans booed him for burly challenges early in the afternoon.

Ruud Gullit, the Newcastle manager, does not subscribe to the conventional view of Shearer. He sees his captain not as a dwindling resource, but as a man who has been denied his true role. For Gullit, Shearer is miscast as a target man and should, instead, be advancing on to the ball. Therefore, the manager saw the introduction of Duncan Ferguson in the 75th minute, his first appearance after four months of injury, as a crucial change in context.

"Whenever Duncan got a flick," Gullit said, "Alan was nearby and he could control the game. Alan has needed that for a long time. He hasn't had it since Les Ferdinand was at Newcastle."

A year ago, also at Old Trafford, Shearer had decided an FA Cup semi-final, hitting the goal, from close range, that defeated Sheffield United. In 1999, much has changed. Yesterday, there was often a tetchiness to exchanges and, in that period, his critics could have taken Shearer for a brawler. Gullit himself has observed that the player, after so many injuries, must devise a new method of play. For that process to be completed, Shearer would need to contradict his own aggressive nature and devote more attention to scheming and playmaking.

Before the game, it had been a Tottenham Hotspur player whom many expected to shape the result, but, unable to galvanise the semi-final, David Ginola had to make do with breathing life into a cliché. Here is a figure who really does bring the crowd to its feet. Of course, there is always a clatter of tip-up seats when spectators rise to watch a centre forward going through on the goalkeeper: Ginola, however, needs only to be in possession to have the same effect.

In the first half, with the ball at his feet and animation in his gait, the crowd at Old Trafford rose with an eagerness that suggested they wished to accompany him on his runs. Unfortunately for the entertainment value, others at Old Trafford had the same idea. So long as he was on the field, Ginola, who was replaced eventually, found that he could never free himself from Rob Lee and the admirable Andy Griffin.

Poyet returns for final lap



WIMBLEDON 1

CHELSEA 2

by Alyson Rudd

DEVOTEES of the FA Carling Premiership have long since given up paying attention to the margin of Chelsea's victories. On paper, this match may look close but, in reality, Gianluca Vialli's team dominated it — and in the manner of champions-elect, to boot.

They started the afternoon with a gentle, economic approach, as if quietly confident that this could be the week in which they take pole position in the title race. Only last month, Vialli, the player-manager, was dismissing the possibility that Chelsea could catch Arsenal and Manchester United. Now, anything seems possible.

With their two rivals in the Premiership engaged in an FA Cup semi-final replay on Wednesday, Chelsea could, if they win away to Middlesbrough, top the table. They went top just before Christmas, but to do so in April has more of an ominous ring to it for the other contenders.

"It is a massive week for us," Ray Wilkins, the first-team coach, said, "but Boro have had a mini-revival, so we have no illusions. It will be extremely tough for us up there."

For Chelsea, the script is unravelling nicely. When Gustavo Poyet was badly injured earlier in the season, Chelsea stuttered, but the fans knew that the minute Poyet returned, their team would start to storm back to full power. "It's like having a new player at the club," Wilkins said — but, in truth, Chelsea knew exactly what they were missing. The Uruguay midfield player possesses a rare killer instinct.

He could have scored twice yesterday before Chelsea broke the deadlock in the 23rd minute, first with an overhead kick, then from a free kick by Zola, which he tried to bundle over the line. Instead, it was Flo who scored, after a meticulous move, in which the Norway striker took hold of the ball inside the centre circle and exchanged passes with Goldbaek before beating Sullivan effortlessly.

Chelsea continued to create chances. Zola worked a short corner with Goldbaek that set up Duberry for a header, which he put wide. When Petrescu picked out Zola with a cross, the Italian's blistering strike was blocked by Cunningham. Poyet put another chance wide but, by now, it looked inevitable that he would score, eventually.

He did, early in the second half, with a thundering half-volley after a cross by Zola. There was no need then for the West London side to exert themselves further; after all, the title race demands that a team paces itself and what would be the point in gloating at the extra workload facing Arsenal and Manchester United if Chelsea were to risk tiredness at Selhurst Park?

Nevertheless, Wimbledon, for all their failings yesterday, gave Chelsea a slap across the face in injury time, Gayle scoring after a cross by Ainsworth. For just a few seconds, the prospect of an unlikely draw boosted the home support; for just a few seconds, Wimbledon looked more like their old selves, rather than the petulant, slumbering side of the previous 90 minutes.

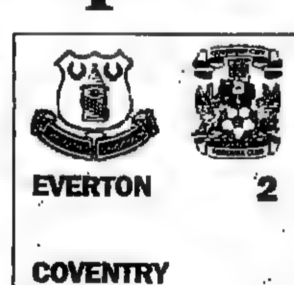
But Wimbledon have nothing much to play for now, whereas Chelsea — with a full squad possessing, according to Wilkins, astounding fitness levels — can see the summit of the mountain they have been climbing all season and snow as yet untrodden. It is indeed a massive week.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, D Blackwell, C Perry, B Thatcher (sub: C Leaburn, 76min) — M Hughes (sub: G Ainsworth, 46), J Euell, A Roberts, C Hughes — J Hartson (sub: C Cort, 70), M Gayle

CHELSEA (4-4-2): E de Goey — B Lambourde, M Duberry, F Leboeuf, G Le Saux — D Petrescu (sub: E Newton, 87), G Poyet, R Di Matteo (sub: J Morris, 46), B Goldbaek — T A Flo, G Zola (sub: M Nicholls, 90)

Referee: G Willard

Campbell lifts Everton spirits



EVERTON 2

COVENTRY CITY 0

by Stephen Wood

THE scenes which greeted Everton's first win in five matches yesterday, a victory which took them out of the bottom three in the FA Carling Premiership, were frenzied indeed. Players rushed to congratulate Kevin Campbell, the scorer of Everton's two goals, while the police were quick to provide an escort for Rob Harris, the latest referee to take centre stage.

The Oxford official saw fit to book seven players and five minutes from time, with Coventry striving might and main to force an equaliser, it appeared that one contentious decision too far could prove costly for Everton.

Darren Huckerby touched the ball past Marco Materazzi before falling to ground. If Everton escaped a penalty by a matter of inches, Materazzi did not escape his second caution, which brought dismissal. The Italian looked distraught, for Huckerby's tumble appeared somewhat theatrical.

Perversely, however, this setback spurred Everton to greater things and, with less than three minutes remaining, Campbell reacted quickest to a rebound to ensure three vital points. "Our margin for error is slight," Walter Smith, the Everton manager said, "so it was important to get our recovery back on track."

The roars from the Everton supporters mingled encouragement with emotion. These fans have more experience of relegation battles than many of the players.

Discounting a narrow escape from a shot by Gary Breen in the first minute, positive thinking served the home side well in the first half. Ball and Dacourt peppered the Coventry goal and Nicky Barmby was foiled by an instinctive save from Hedman when he had the goal at his mercy. With 28 minutes gone, however, Barmby made amends. He toe-poked a pass to Campbell, who is on loan from Trabzonspor, and the striker escaped the attentions of Williams before rounding the goalkeeper to score.

The Coventry players were adamant that Campbell had fouled Williams in the process and it appeared that they had a good case, but if this was the stroke of luck Everton have been seeking, they singularly failed to take advantage of it.

Campbell and Francis Jeffers both wasted good openings before the second half brought a turn for the worse. Whatever Smith says to his players at half-time, it seems to have an unsettling effect. They surrendered an interval lead to lose to Sheffield Wednesday in their previous home game and it appeared something similar was about to occur as Coventry heaped pressure on an increasingly brittle defence.

Aloisi twice went close, denied on the second occasion by an heroic piece of defending by Short. Williams fired a shot straight at Myhre and Soltvedt ballooned another good chance over the crossbar. The ball bounced around frantically in the Everton penalty area but Coventry were unable to apply the decisive touch.

In an encounter plagued by niggling challenges, it seemed inevitable that one player, at least, was going to be sent off. Dacourt tried in vain to claim that booby prize, although the one yellow card he picked up means that another suspension is heading his way.

Instead it was Materazzi who received his marching orders. Against Sheffield Wednesday, his mistakes cost his club dear. Yesterday, the Gods were kinder and after two successive victories, Coventry were reminded that Nationwide League football still remains a possibility.

EVERTON (3-5-2): T Myhre — C Short, D Watson, M Materazzi — D Weir, S Gemmill, O Dacourt, N Barmby, M Ball — K Campbell, F Jeffers (sub: A Grant, 86min).

COVENTRY CITY (3-5-2): M Hedman — R Shaw, P Williams, D Burrows — G Breen, G Boateng, G McAllister, T Soltvedt, P Telfer (sub: J Aloisi, 14) — D Huckerby, N Whelan

Referee: R Harris

هكذا من الأصل

FA Cup: Ferguson furious as dubious offside decision subjects his team to Villa Park replay

Extended semi riles United



MANCHESTER UNITED 0
ARSENAL 0
after extra time

by Oliver Holt

THERE was finesse and there was finery at Villa Park yesterday afternoon, but both were relegated to subservience. Baser virtues triumphed in this FA Cup semi-final between the nation's two best sides and acquired a nobility of their own in the process.

There was an occasional shimmy from Dennis Bergkamp, the odd piece of vision from the Dutchman that took the breath away and one run in the dying seconds of extra time that eliminated Roy Keane and Ronny Johnsen in a couple of mesmeric shuffles and seemed as if it might be about to settle the tie. There were some clever passes from Keane, too, and a brace of dipping, curling free kicks from David Beckham and Ryan Giggs that commanded awe because of their precision and power. They were like flowers planted on barren ground.

This was a game of destructive beauty, a game where all creativity was lost. That extra-time run by Bergkamp was stifled by a lunging tackle from Gary Neville, Giggs's free kick was clutched by David Seaman and a late break by Fredrik Ljungberg foundered on the excellence of Peter Schmeichel.

The one time that the ball did bulge the net, dispatched there by a fierce half-volley from Keane in the 39th minute, it was ruled out by a dubious offside decision that penalised Dwight Yorke, even though he was clearly not seeking to interfere with play.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, described the decision — which provoked fury among the United players — as "absolutely ridiculous". Keane explained why it angered his side so much. "We knew how tight it was going to be," he said. "We knew there was only ever going to be one goal in it. That's why we were so disappointed."

More than anything, this was a game that relied on the apparently ageless excellence of the Arsenal defence for its inspiration. They were utterly unbreachable yesterday, neutralising Yorke and Andy Cole and reducing Beckham and Giggs to peripheral figures.

At the heart of that defence, a back four that has conceded only 13 goals in the FA Carling Premiership this season, Tony Adams and Martin Keown played as well as they have done all year. Keown, in particular, was unyielding in the challenge, impossible to beat.

On the rare occasion that United had half an opening, when they might have won one challenge in the opposing penalty area, Arsenal invariably won the second. If Adams was beaten, Keown was there to mop up, and vice versa. More often, they broke up play with a thudding tackle or a neat intervention. To make United's attacking task even harder, Patrick Vieira and Nelson Vivas worked away like demons in front of the defence, stopping their opponents from running directly at Adams and Keown. They were a formidable barrier.

Even when Vivas was sent off five minutes into the first period of extra time, earning his second yellow card for elbowing Nicky Butt in the face, Arsenal breathed hard, regrouped and returned to the task. Only two minutes from the end, when Adams collided with Nigel Winterburn, did United have a clear opportunity, and Yorke dragged his shot wide from ten yards.

That, in fact, was the game in microcosm. With Arsenal playing conservatively, looking to hit United on the break, the onus was on Ferguson's side to break them down. To do that, their forwards needed to be on top form, their finishing at its most clinical, but Cole and Yorke fell short of the performances that have made them such a feared partnership.

Indeed, it was Arsenal who forced the few half-chances there were before the interval. Schmeichel had to arch his back to tip over a fierce header from Adams in the 25th minute and, ten minutes later, the Danish goalkeeper flung himself to his right to push out Bergkamp's shot after it had flown at him through a crowd of players.

On the stroke of half-time, Yorke shot weakly and straight at Seaman after an exchange of passes with Cole. Then, after the break, Cole failed to convert an enticing cross from Gary Neville and, soon afterwards, struck a tame shot into the arms of Seaman after Giggs had released him in the centre.

Nicolas Anelka, who had a subdued game, wasted a chance to break the stalemate three minutes from the end of normal time when he wriggled past Jaap Stam for the first time, but he sliced his shot high and wide.

Both sides tired in the second period of extra time and the chances came in a flash flood as the game ebbed away. None of them were taken, leaving Ferguson, in particular, to rue his side's profligacy.

"There was not much between the two sides," he said. "I think it was a predictable result, to be honest with you. We had enough chances to kill them off. We created more than them but we did not take them and that is why we have to go to a replay."

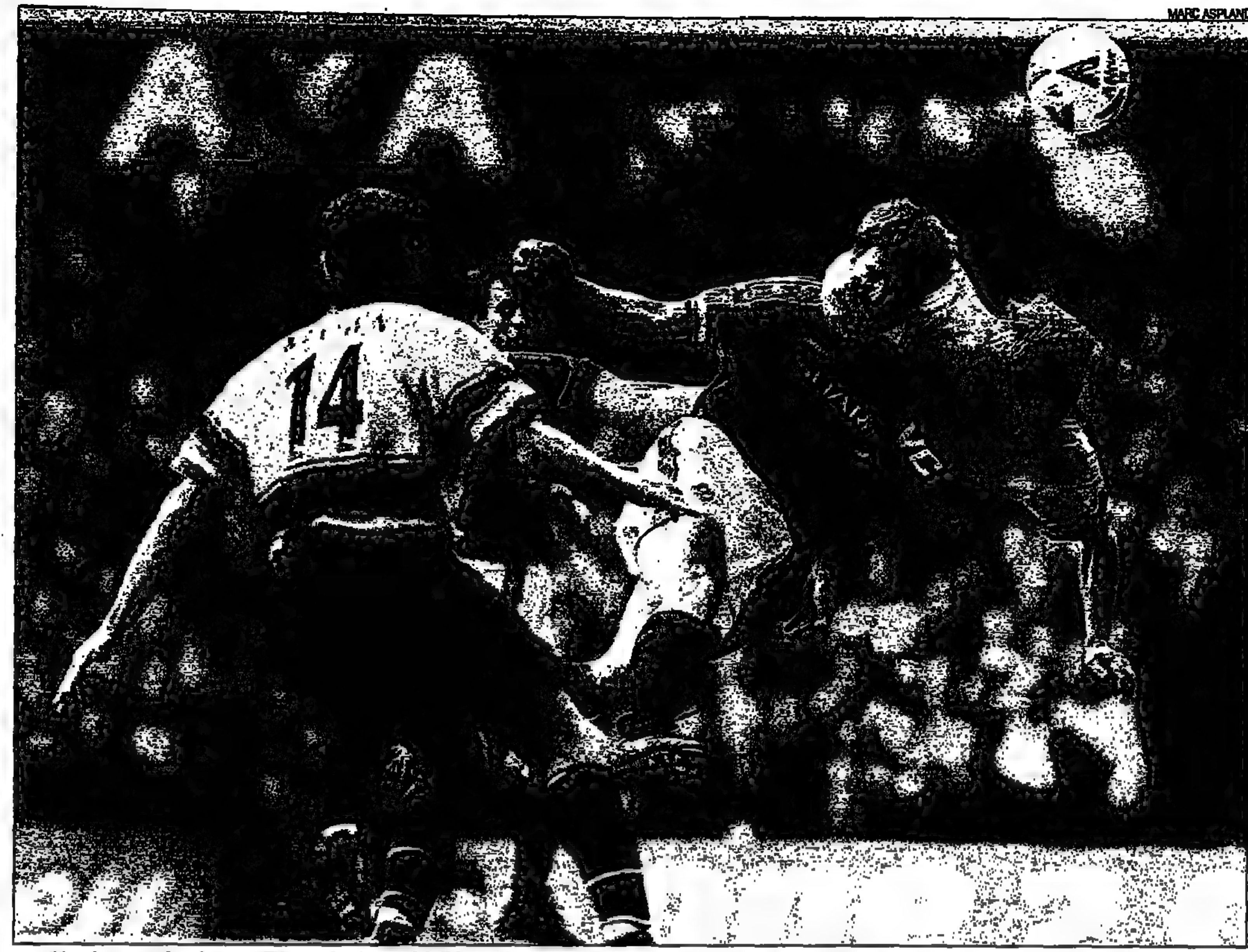
It will take a mistake or a moment of brilliance to separate these sides on Wednesday. Yesterday, neither was forthcoming.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, R Johnsen, J Stam, D Irwin (sub: P Neville, 85min) — D Beckham, R Keane, N Butt, R Giggs (sub: O G Solskjaer, 99) — D Yorke, A Cole (sub: P. Scholes, 113).

ARSENAL (4-3-3): D Seaman — L Dixon, M Keown, A Adams, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, N Vivas — N Anelka (sub: Kanu, 100), D Bergkamp, M Overmars (sub: F Ljungberg, 90)

Referee: D Elleray.

MARC ASPLAND



Hand-to-mouth existence: Dixon, the Arsenal full back, gets to grips with Keane as Manchester United go on the attack at Villa Park yesterday



Keane and Yorke lead United's protests over the disallowed goal

Odds grow longer on treble chance

Oliver Holt, football correspondent, detects worrying signs of staleness as an epic season reaches its finale

THEIR performance was as solid and unforgiving as Arsenal's, but Manchester United have not built their success on those attritional attributes. As their season struggles towards its climax, worrying signs of sterility are beginning to blunt their performances. Their goalless draw in the FA Cup semi-final with the Double winners yesterday was the last thing that they needed, coming hard on the heels of their sobering 1-1 draw with Juventus in the European Cup last week that, in turn, suggested their season may not be gilded with three trophies after all.

On this occasion, they were denied victory by a linesman's flag, a curious and controversial offside decision that picked out Dwight Yorke when he was running away from goal and so ruled out the fierce, first-half half-volley by Roy Keane and dominated the post-match discussions.

Now they face a replay at Villa Park on Wednesday night that will sap them of more strength as they prepare for the second leg of their European semi-final in Turin a week later. Also on Wednesday, victory for Chelsea against Middlesbrough at the Riverside Stadium will knock United off the top of the FA Carling Premiership.

There is no disgrace in failing to beat Arsenal, of course. Their defence has not conceded a goal for 673 minutes and, statistically, is the best in Europe, but United have not beaten them for six games now. It has got almost to the point where they are starting at a psychological disadvantage against the champions.

With the build-up of games and the increasing pressure that the denouement to the season brings, United seem to have lost some of their invention. David Beckham's form has dipped since the emotional high of his performance against Internazionale last month, Ryan Giggs has not yet rediscovered his incisive touch and Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole appear to be suffering because of the relentlessly prurient interest in their private lives.

Furthermore, their chances of keeping their dreams of an unprecedented treble alive will be diminished by the realisation that Emmanuel Petit will return to the Arsenal line-up on Wednesday after suspension.

Perhaps because he sensed the need to lift the spirits of his side in the face of an almost intangible feeling that the tide is turning against them, Alex Ferguson, the United manager, issued what was an almost blood-curdling rallying cry at Villa Park after the match yesterday.

"Having to take part in the replay won't make any difference to us at all," he said in response to a question that he thought had been asked by an Italian journalist. "By the time we get to Turin, we will be chomping at the bit. We will be eating people by then.

"Never underestimate British endurance. Make sure you write that in your newspaper. You will need to run a million miles to beat us in Italy. We will be up for it, don't worry about that."

Ferguson refused to be drawn into stoking the controversy that surrounded Keane's disallowed goal. He made it plain that he found it hard to believe the decision of David Elleray, the referee, but stopped himself from enlarging on his unhappiness.

Instead, Keane, United's outstanding player yesterday, endorsed his manager's opinions about United's resilience. "Of course we would like to have won today," he said, "but it doesn't matter to us that we have to go to a replay. You can't pick and choose your results. That's daft. We will be even stronger on Wednesday."



MANCHESTER UNITED: April 14: Arsenal (FA Cup semi-final replay). April 17: Sheffield Wednesday (h). April 21: Juventus (European Cup semi-final, a). April 25: Leeds (a). May 1: Aston Villa (h). May 5: Liverpool (a). May 9: Middlesbrough (a) May 12: Blackburn (a) May 16: Tottenham (h) May 22: FA Cup final (possible). May 26: European Cup final (Barcelona, possible).

ARSENAL: April 14: Manchester United (FA Cup semi-final replay). April 19: Wimbledon (h) April 24: Middlesbrough (a). May 2: Derby (h) May 5: Tottenham (a). May 11: Leeds (a). May 16: Aston Villa (h). May 22: FA Cup final (possible).

CHELSEA: April 14: Middlesbrough (a). April 18: Leicester (h). April 22: Real Mallorca (Cup Winners' Cup semi-final, a) April 25: Sheffield Wednesday (a) May 1: Everton (h). May 5: Leeds (h). May 10: Tottenham (a) May 16: Derby (h) May 19: Cup Winners' Cup final (Villa Park, possible)

Adams presents indestructable barricade

Matt Dickinson says the boys of the old brigade who constitute Arsenal's defence continue to amaze by their resilience

If Tony Adams is the Doctor of Defence, as his manager claims, then yesterday he allowed the rest of us a glance at his thesis. The Arsenal captain has produced some immense performances for club and country over more than a decade, but few can have equalled this colossal display. Some of his tackles would have stopped the traffic.

He must have been that good to have narrowly pipped Martin Keown to this observer's man-of-the-match award. With some justification, Keown has complained recently that he has not been recognised as a defender of international calibre. So here goes. Martin, you are a great defender but Tony, I am afraid, is still that little bit better.

In tandem, and with Nigel Winterburn, Lee Dixon and David Seaman in their own resolute mood, the safest bet yesterday was that not even the country's most prolific attack would be capable of breaching England's most steadfast defence. The reduction to ten men, when Nelson Vivas was rightly dismissed four minutes into extra time, only made Arsenal's stubbornness more certain. The resilience is in the blood.

Adams threw himself into tackles with an enthusiasm that belied his 32 years and dodgy ankles, as well as embarking on the odd rampage upfield. At one point in the first half, he charged forward with such unlikely speed that he appeared to have got on the end of his own clearances and he, more than anyone, did not deserve to lose this game.

There have been times this season when the pain in his legs has prompted talk of retirement and he will prove irreplaceable when the day eventually comes. They will clear the marble halls of Highbury for another bronze bust.

With Patrick Vieira and Roy Keane matching each other in magnificence in midfield and both attacks sporadic in their effectiveness, this was the sixth meeting in succession in which United have found themselves unable to overcome their sternest rivals. It is a run of four defeats and two draws that stretches back to February 1997 and, in the minds of the United players, the little doubts must have started to become self-fulfilling. Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole must feel as though they are banging their heads, as well as their shots, against a brick wall.




Adams, back, holds off Beckham

Arsenal will certainly have left Villa Park in the jauntier mood. Without the burden of a European campaign to distract them, they will feel that the return of Emmanuel Petit from his three-match suspension for the replay on Wednesday will give them a slight edge.

They appeared less willing than United to gamble on throwing bodies forward yesterday, but the Frenchman's versatility will allow them to do so in greater numbers. Perhaps by Wednesday, Nicolas Anelka will have been taught the rules of offside.

And, of course, there will still be that back four to protect David Seaman, provided that they have all recovered from the aches and pains that prove more reluctant to depart by the year. Winterburn, 35, was bleeding from his chest early on after a strong challenge from Beckham and finished extra time clutching his toes as cramp set in.

Meanwhile, Dixon, 35, could barely muster the energy to clear the ball past the halfway line. It was left to Keown and Adams to carry them through, a task they performed with remarkable calm as well as courage.

"They are tough, they are intelligent and they will recover for Wednesday," Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, said. "They will make it. They have made if before. We had our usual resilience and organisation and we needed the brilliance at the back. We are still in the FA Cup because of our defence." He could not have put it better.



George Caulkin

There are certain lines one simply does not step over, never mind sniff, but Liverpool have been guilty of questionable judgment as well as dubious taste in recent weeks. For just the third time since the 1960s, an Anfield side is unlikely to qualify for European competition and seldom has a season tailed away with such muted embarassment as this.

Robbie Fowler's indiscretions, featuring use of buttocks and nose, have merely put those failings into sharper focus, while a lack of good grace lingers about the club like an unpleasant odour. "This season has not been good enough," Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, said yesterday. "We are all playing for our futures and we can do far better."



LEEDS UNITED
v
LIVERPOOL
Today, 8.00pm

Attempting a reversal of fortunes will not be straightforward against a Leeds United team chasing their eighth successive victory and who have David Batty and Alf Inge Haaland back to reinforce a youthful squad.

LEEDS UNITED (possible, 4-3-3): N Martyn — A I Haaland, J Woodgate, L Radebe, I Harte — L Bowyer, D Hopkin, D Batty — H Kewell, A Smith, J F Hasselbaink

LIVERPOOL (possible, 4-4-2): D James — R Song, J Carragher, S Staunton, D Matteo — S McManaman, P Ince, J Redknapp, P Berger — M Owen, R Fowler

Referee: P Jones.

PREDICTION: A draw.

Blinker comes alive to clog United's path to glory

Celtic	2
Dundee United	0

By Phil Gordon

THE unlikely hero is as much a part of the fabric of cup tradition as the embarrassing suits that (dis)grace the pre-match pitch inspection before every final. So, few players are better made-to-measure for the role than Regi Blinker.

The Dutchman passed the stage of vilification with Celtic supporters long ago, slipping into something most charitably described as being patronised. The Scottish Cup semi-final, therefore, simply yearned to be his stage and Blinker cast off his clown's outfit to unravel Dundee United's dreams.

Blinker's fearsome 29th-minute shot paved the way for victory at Ibrox, but the normally-slothful Holland player then embellished his display with hitherto unknown passages of crisp passing and tackling that earned him the man-of-the-match award and, more importantly, a standing ovation from those supporters clad in green-and-white.

Blinker's day in the sun went some way to atoning for the moment of trepidation last August in the Champions' League qualifying tie with Croatia Zagreb, when he stopped in his tracks, rather than take a thump from the goalkeeper that was as certain as the goal that also beckoned. Exit from Europe seemed certain to be followed by Blinker's own from Parkhead.

When Blinker arrived from Sheffield Wednesday 21 months ago, a dazzling entertainer was promised. What Celtic supporters got was the Emperor's clothes. Will one performance alter that opinion? Craig Burley believes his colleague could be back in fashion.

"I think Regi now understands that he has to work as hard as every player," the Celtic midfield player reflected. "He did not shirk any responsibility out there today and he has come back to the team, after a spell out, a different man."

It gives the Celtic forwards, Henrik Larsson and Mark Viduka, better service, too. Tosh McKinlay, the Celtic wing back, even at 34, still leaves Blinker in the shade when it comes to quality of crossing. Viduka ought to have profited on at least two occasions from McKinlay's fine work but, eventually, the Australia forward punished some negligent marking by Siggi Jonsson, the Dundee United defender, to drive in the crucial second goal.

United, swamped in the first half, rediscovered their vigour in the second in a disappointing display that Paul Sturrock, the manager, termed "Jekyll and Hyde" but of which Billy Dodds, the striker, was more damning. "We switched off after ten minutes and I can't stomach that," the Scotland midfield player said.

Nobody would agree more than Burley. He had to suffer the unedifying sight, as he ate his prematch meal, of his blunder when playing for Chelsea in the 1995 FA Cup semi-final, which gifted David Beckham, of Manchester United, a goal.

Blinker is right to savour the moment. The lifespan of unlikely cup heroes is a short one. Ask Mike Trebilcock, Roger Osborne or even Joe Miller. The Dundee United winger, whose runs were thwarted all day by Blinker, attracted scarcely a glance from the same Celtic fans who celebrated his winning goal in the 1989 Scottish Cup final. What a fickle game this is.

CELTIC (3-5-2): J Gould — E Annoni, T Boyd, S Mahe (sub: M Wieghorst, 53min) — J McNamara, C Burley, P Lambert, R Blinker, T McKinlay — H Larsson, M Viduka (sub: S Donnelly, 46).

DUNDEE UNITED (4-4-2): S Dijkstra — M Skoldmark, J de Vos, S Jonsson, M Malpas — J Miller, N Murray, C Easton, K Olofsson — B Dodds, A Mathie (sub: S Thomson, 69).

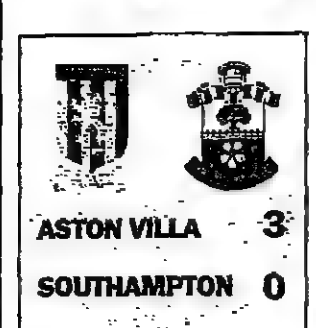
Referee: W Young.



Blinker screams in delight after putting Celtic ahead

FA Carling Premiership: Villa take advantage of depleted opponents

Ten-man Southampton cave in



ASTON VILLA	3
SOUTHAMPTON	0

by Alyson Rudd

THE grouse is shot, it lies still, waiting for the danger to pass, stunned but not hurt. The man with the rifle then sees the flag indicating that the grouse season is at an end. He pauses, sidles up to the flag-bearer, thinks and then strolls up to the bird and shoots it dead.

It is an emotive analogy but then these are emotional times. The referee at Villa Park, Neale Barry, saw Claus Lundekvam pull back Ian Taylor and took his cards out of his pocket. The Southampton defender had already been cautioned, so his team-mates gathered round and pointed to the assistant referee, who had raised his flag for offside. Barry duly consulted with his assistant and awarded Southampton a free kick. The danger seemed to have passed, the Southampton players visibly relaxed. And then Barry showed Lundekvam a red card.

His decision altered the game, not least because David Jones's team are simply not the sort that play better when down to ten men. Southampton generally demean themselves on their travels — this was their eighth successive away defeat — and they were already a goal behind at the time of Lundekvam's dismissal, Mark Draper having eluded Marsden's lunging tackle to score his first FA Carling Premiership goal of the season. Yet Villa still seemed sufficiently vulnerable for Southampton to make their mark.

However, as soon as Lundekvam left the pitch in the fortieth minute it all fell apart. Jones urged Le Tissier to assume the lone striker's role but this was not such a wonderful idea. Le Tissier, having passed the ball around blithely, as is his wont, now found himself surrounded by defenders and he never was the sort to turn and run through the pack. Jones had lost not only a centre half, but also his most creative force.

The resulting collapse was pitiful and Villa, having failed to register a victory in ten matches, could scarcely contain their glee. John Gregory could even throw on Paul Merson, safe in the knowledge that this had become the sort of contest in which even a man with nagging personal problems could excel. Villa, harangued for their fall from grace, could find their groove again. Steve Stone, who, since his £5 million move from Nottingham Forest, had been a disappointment, revelled in the space offered him. Merson set up Villa's second goal and Stone the third. A delightfully weighted chip by the former Arsenal and Middlesbrough forward gave Joachim time to lob the goalkeeper. Stone's efforts were eventually rewarded when Dublin headed in a perfect cross.

Gregory, possibly embarrassed by the whole affair, sent in his first-team coach Steve Harrison to face the press. "Irrespective of the circumstances, we played some good football," he insisted.

Southampton's failure to impress this season is a puzzle. There was real anticipation that this time they would avoid the relegation scrap. The reason for the optimism was the pedigree of their forward line but pedigree has counted for little. Mark Hughes has failed to score all season and Egil Ostenstad, who was perhaps not fully fit, was lumbering and awkward and wasted some good chances.

"We've got to find an away win from somewhere," Jones said. But with Villa so short of confidence, that win should have arrived on Saturday.

ASTON VILLA (4-4-2): M Bosnich — S Watson, G Southgate, C Calderwood, A Wright — S Stone, I Taylor, M Draper (sub: P Merson, 57min), A Thompson (sub: L Hendrie, 4) — D Dublin (sub: G Barry, 90), J Joachim.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): N Moss — S Hiley, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, P Colleter (sub: D Hirst, 72) — D Hughes, J Dodd, C Marsden, M Le Tissier — E Ostenstad (sub: S Ripley, 85), M Hughes (sub: F Benali, 53).

Referee: N Barry



Lundekvam starts his lonely walk to the dressing-room after his controversial dismissal by referee Barry. Photograph: Shaun Botterill/Allsport



Draper celebrates his first Premiership goal of the season

Lightweight Charlton lack consistent punch



MIDDLESBROUGH	2
CHARLTON ATHLETIC	0

by Kevin McCarra

MIDDLESBROUGH'S season has gone flat, but Bryan Robson might find satisfaction in the stillness. In each of his previous years as a manager there has always been a ghastly effervescence, with the club in a panic over relegation or clawing for promotion. Now, they can go placidly about the business of making other teams screech with fear and anxious hope.

Robson's side are still to play the three contenders for the FA Carling Premiership title at home, with Chelsea arriving on Wednesday. Manchester United and Arsenal must also regard Middlesbrough as a likely impediment to progress in the championship.

Sport is supposed to shred nerves, but spells of tranquillity have their charm. Middlesbrough are reviving and another portion of tasty form was served to a contented crowd. The supporters will particularly have relished the lithe mobility of Hamilton Ricard, whose eruption of goals, with five in his past five appearances, explains the team's rise in recent weeks.

He gave Middlesbrough the lead over Charlton Athletic when he collected Brian Deane's header, shot against Richard Rufus and volleyed home the rebound. In the second half, Ricard took Robbie Mustoe's pass, paused to let his team-mate make his run and then returned the ball to the midfield player, who notched the match's second goal with a sly dink.

The visitors could not intervene to halt that move and, for much of the time, were barely present. It was only late in the afternoon, when Carl Tiler's header compelled Mark Schwarzer to make a good save, that Charlton registered. Yet, Alan Curbishley's team should have been making a boisterous, unholy spectacle of themselves.

How else is the club to stay in the Premiership? The self-effacing nature of this display was a puzzle, given that they had beaten West Ham at Upton Park only last Monday. Curbishley claimed that some of his players were still tired from the exertions of that victory and with four of their six remaining matches at The Valley, the team should soon find the will to start throwing punches again. The prize is great, since Charlton have a chance to alter their very status in football.

Curbishley believes that those who survive to contest a second season in the top flight and use the Premiership income to buy a batch of better players will then have a great advantage over the clubs that are promoted in subsequent years. The Charlton manager gives Derby County, Leicester City and Middlesbrough as shining examples of consolidation.

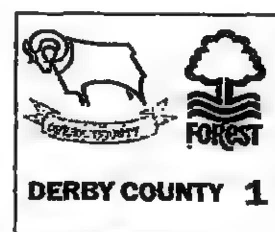
All the same, Curbishley is careful not to take the comparison too far. Steve Gibson, the Middlesbrough chairman, may give Robson £30 million to spend in the transfer market this summer. That is one piece of strategy Charlton will never be able to emulate.

MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2): M Schwarzer — G Festa, G Pallister, C Cooper — R Mustoe, R Stockdale, A Townsend, P Gascoigne (sub: N Maddison, 75min), D Gordon — H Ricard (sub: A Armstrong, 75), B Deane (sub: K O'Neill, 68).

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): A Petterson — D Mills, R Rufus, C Tiler, C Powell — G Stuart, M Kinsella (sub: K Jones, 82), J Barnes, M Bowen (sub: S Brown, 57) — A Hunt (sub: S Jones, 67), M Pringle.

Referee: U Rennie

Wright resurfaces to find little changed



LEICESTER CITY	0
WEST HAM UNITED	0

by Keith Pike

FOR those obsessed with the crazy world of football finances, it must have felt like being one of the passengers who stumbled from the wreckage of *The Last Train* on television in the week, unaware that they had been in a state of suspended animation for 14 years: when it was not so much the big things that made them realise that something was not quite right — such as the fact that the world's population had all but been wiped out — but the small, like the absence of one last inspector lurking in the station rubble to check their tickets. Now that is *really* spooky.

So it was in the summer, when Manchester United's decision to pay more than £12 million for Dwight Yorke was less a barometer of an irreversibly inflated transfer market than the description in some quarters of the £700,000 fee that took Ian Wright to West Ham United as "nominal". A "nominal" three quarters of a million pounds? What would Alf Common, the first player to command a four-figure fee, have made of that.

So it was too at Filbert Street on Saturday, when an absence of goals rather than a glut of them enhanced the value of a match-winner instead of diminishing it.

That the best of several clear chances should fall to Wright, and be fluffed by him, seemed somehow inevitable. Forty-five minutes of reserve-team football after three months out with knee trouble have not been enough to sharpen his instincts and when Berkovic and Lampard combined neatly to present him with a clear opportunity 12 yards out, the West Ham substitute's third touch of the game had already sent the ball towards the seats behind Kasey Keller even before the Leicester City goalkeeper stretched to make certain with a fingertip save.

Having persuaded Wimbledon to pay £7 million for John Hartson — the awful truth of their predicament will dawn on the train survivors when they find out about *that* bit of business — Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, would no doubt reflect that he has had the best of the deals. "Ian has still got what it takes to play Premiership football," Redknapp told the doubters. "He has lost none of his enthusiasm for the game."

But it is their own lack of firepower as much as Uefa's interference that has turned a highly promising season into an undignified scramble for an Inter-Toto Cup place. When Wright was hurt he was comfortably West Ham's leading scorer, with seven. Fourteen matches later he still is. They started the day as the fifth best team in the country, yet with a goal difference of minus six.

They ended it regretting not only Wright's miss but also an earlier one by Lampard when one-on-one with Keller. Shaka Hislop, Keller's opposite number, was in top form, too, and needed to be as Leicester created the bulk of the openings, although not the best ones. Goalless yes, soulless no. But it is never quite as good without them.

LEICESTER CITY (3-4-1-2): K Keller — F Sinclair, M Elliott, R Ullathorne — A Impey (sub: G Miller, 63min), R Savage, N Lennon, S Guppy — A Gunnlaugsson (sub: I Marshall, 63) — E Heskey, A Cottee.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-4-1-2): S Hislop — S Potts, I Pearce, N Ruddock — T Sinclair, F Lampard, S Lomas, S Minto — E Berkovic — P Kitson (sub: I Wright, 71), P Di Canio (sub: J Moncur, 87).

Referee: J Winter

Van Hooijdonk lucky to miss Barber's cut

DERBY COUNTY	1
NOTTINGHAM FOREST	0

by Stephen Wood

MOMENTS before the main protagonists took the field, Rammy, the Derby County mascot, hurtled over to the Nottingham Forest supporters, gesticulating wildly. The visiting supporters were ready for a dust-up with this half-man-half-ram, before he picked out a young lad in the crowd and invited him on to the pitch. The odd couple, both attired in their respective clubs' replica shirt, then proceeded to kick the ball to each other. Back and forth it went, without much care and attention, and so the afternoon continued unabated until shortly before 5pm.

Perhaps that explained, therefore, the decision of Horacio Carbonari, the Derby defender, selfishly to keep hold of the ball late in the game. It was an inspired one, as he weaved his way past Edwards and Chettle before passing the ball into the net for the home side's winning goal. The moment was a conspicuous one, contrasting vividly with the previous 84 minutes of futile FA Carling Premiership football.

In fact, if Rammy's gesture with the young Forest fan was aimed at enhancing harmony between the two East Midlands rivals, it was the only thing that was not plagiarised by the players. They were tetchy and full of contempt, sometimes for members of their own team. The refereeing of Graham Barber added spice, too, for he made six unnecessary bookings in the first half. Russell Hoult, the Derby goalkeeper, and Richard Gough, of Forest, were also sent off by Barber, yet he ignored the juiciest incident.

Eleven minutes had gone when Pierre van Hooijdonk, the Forest striker, clashed with Vassilis Borbokis, the Derby midfield player. Borbokis was taken off on a stretcher to hospital, where it was revealed he had fractured a cheekbone. He will not play again this season, although Van Hooijdonk's fate is less clear. He clearly caught Borbokis in the face with his elbow and the pundits on *Match of the Day* were unanimous in denouncing Hooijdonk as the culprit, but others were not so sure his action was premeditated.

Ron Atkinson, the Forest manager, said that the incident did not look "too clever", and that he would watch a replay of it again before deciding whether to take disciplinary action. However, he then said: "The referee did not give a free kick, and he was booking people and getting their addresses out there. Was it deliberate?"

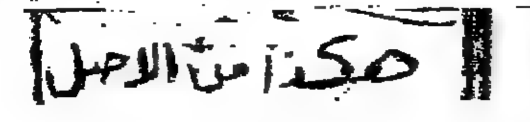
Jim Smith, the Derby manager, was even more supportive of Van Hooijdonk. "I think it looked worse than it actually was," Smith said. The Football Association yesterday maintained that it would wait to see whether the incident was noted by Barber in his report.

Van Hooijdonk may be innocent of this crime, but he is guilty of acting like a baby and sometimes playing badly. On Saturday, he managed both: after 75 minutes of unimpressive work, he was substituted and trudged off down the tunnel before making an early exit from the ground alone.

DERBY COUNTY (4-3-1-2): R Hoult — J Laursen, S Prior, H Carbonari, S Schnoor — V Borbokis (sub: D Sturridge, 17min), L Bohinen, D Powell — F Baiano (sub: K Harper, 46) — D Burton (sub: M Poom, 60), P Wanchope.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-3-3): M Crossley — M Louis-Jean, R Gough, C Edwards, T Bonalair — C Palmer, A Johnson, A Rogers — D Freedman, P van Hooijdonk (sub: N Shipperley, 75), M Harewood (sub: S Chettle, 80).

Referee: G Barber



NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: PROMOTION RIVALS JOSTLE FOR POSITION IN THE WAKE OF FIRST DIVISION LEADERS

Old rivals keep their pride intact

Norwich City	0
Ipswich Town	0

By Russell Kempson

TO THE theme of "Shake Hands on Derby Day", Norwich City and Ipswich Town prepared thoroughly for the second of their annual East Anglian get-togethers. A mood of mutual friendship was fostered during the build-up, with the managers meeting publicly for tea, biscuits and good PR, and the players exchanged greetings before kick-off at Carrow Road yesterday.

Battle then commenced, in which the niceties and bonhomie of the previous week were instantly forgotten. It was a raw, full-blooded encounter, with many challenges on the limit of legality, and was concluded in an honorable draw. Neither set of supporters, who hurled insults at each other for much of the game, should claim bragging rights this morning.

Those in the yellow and green will still do so, courtesy of their 1-0 victory at Portman Road in October, but that will mean little should Ipswich secure the second automatic promotion place in the Nationwide League first division and return to the FA Carling Premiership after a four-year absence. The point gained on hostile turf pushed them back ahead of Bradford City in the pursuit of Sunderland, the leaders.

Apart from the essentially admirable self-control of the players, much of the credit for keeping the lid on a frequently fractious affair should go to Paul Taylor, the referee. He officiated with common sense, allowed the proceedings to flow whenever possible, and adopted an even-handed attitude rather than the arrogant posturing of some of his peers. The three cautions — Carey, Jackson and Bellamy, all of Norwich — were justified.

Unfortunately, Taylor erred in the fortieth minute, when he stopped play for a foul by Jackson on Johnson. Had he waited just a fraction of a second and applied the advantage rule, he would have seen Stockwell collect the loose ball and run through on his own with only Green to beat.

"The ref apologised to me at half-time," George Burley, the Ipswich manager, said. "He made a mistake. That's the way it goes sometimes."



ROB HOWARTH

Scowcroft, the Ipswich forward, left, fails to block this clearance by Fleming, of Norwich City, at Carrow Road yesterday

Norwich made the brighter start but became increasingly indebted to Robert Green, 19, the goalkeeper, who was making his debut in place of the suspended Andy Marshall. He saved well from Johnson, twice, and tipped over a downward header from Johnson in the final minute that could have settled the outcome.

Inadvertantly, Green also contributed to the premature exit of Jackson, his captain, when they clashed heads while in pursuit of the ball. Jackson was carried off on a stretcher, his nose splattered, but Green carried on.

Scowcroft wasted Ipswich's best chance in the first half, heading weakly at Green from Magilton's free kick, and Stockwell should also have done better when faced by the substantial yet solitary figure of Green. Norwich threatened only rarely and Ipswich's 25th clean sheet of the season was inevitable.

Burley has yet to win a derby at Carrow Road in five years and Ipswich have not won in Norfolk since December 1992, but the wider objective — to avoid defeat — had been achieved.

"The game was always going to be fiercely contested," Burley said. "I was disappointed not to win. At times, we looked like the home side. Still, we're back in second place and the others have all got to catch us."

NORWICH CITY (3-5-2): R Green — C Fleming, M Jackson (sub: L Marshall, 55min), M Mackay — D Sutch, C Anselin, P Mulryne, S Carey, E Fuglestad — P Dalglish (sub: I Roberts, 76), C Bellamy

IPSWICH TOWN (3-5-2): R Wright — A Tanner (sub: J Cundy, 53), A Mowbray, M Venus — F Wilnis, M Stockwell, J Magilton, M Holland, J Clapham — D Johnson, J Scowcroft

Referee: P Taylor

Watford respond to Taylor's urging

Watford	2
Bolton Wanderers	0

By Peter Robinson

IT WAS not so much what he said as the fact that he was able to say anything at all. His voice was hoarse, roughened by an afternoon of furious activity on the touchline, his bellowing sometimes audible above the din of the crowd. He looked exhausted, elated and relieved — and there was a twinkle in his eye.

"It has been made very clear to the players what an opportunity this is," he said. "Why be frightened of it? It may not come next season, so you have to take in when it is there."

And what an opportunity, not merely to play in the FA Carling Premiership, but to make one or two old acquaintances eat their words. Words such as turnip. That hurt, no matter how much you may laugh it off now, because it was unexpected, unfair, and because it was personal.

Graham Taylor has had years to get over that, but he has not forgotten it, nobody has, it remains an abiding image of his time as England manager. Lesser men would have been broken by it but on Saturday, there was Taylor, manager again of his beloved Watford, discussing the possibility of taking his team, in its first season in the Nationwide League first division, back among the elite via the play-offs.

Their third win in a row has given them a glimpse of glory. Bolton Wanderers were hammered, no question. But for the heroics of Steve Banks in goal they would have been five goals down at half-time, one save from Tommy Mooney, in particular, reviving memories of his great namesake, Gordon, foiling Pelé.

He saved a penalty, too, after just two minutes, Mooney again his victim. It took 23 minutes for Micah Hyde to break the deadlock and even Banks could do nothing to stop his 25-yard half-volley from reaching the top corner.

When Mooney scored at last, with a 52nd-minute header, the game was up for Bolton. They tested Chamberlain a couple of times but the Watford goalkeeper passed with flying colours. They were sluggish, almost morose, in contrast to Watford who ran like men demented — fearful, perhaps, of a rollocking from the tubby chap jumping up and down near the substitutes' bench.

WATFORD (4-3-3): A Chamberlain — D Bazeley, S Palmer, R Page, P Robinson — M Hyde, R Johnson, P Kennedy — N Wright (sub: G Whittingham, 82min), T Mooney (sub: A Hazan, 89), A Smart (sub: M Ngonge, 89)

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): S Banks — N Cox, A Todd, P Warhurst, R Elliott — M Johansen, C Jensen, P Frandsen, R Gardner — R Taylor, E Gudjohnson

Referee: A Butler

Francis has sights set on higher ground

Swindon Town	0
Birmingham City	1

By Russell Kempson

ALL the portents suggested a feast of goals. Glenn Hoddle, the former Swindon Town manager and England coach, enthused in the match programme about Swindon's remarkable 6-4 win against Birmingham City in April 1993; the County Ground had witnessed more goals, 77, than any other venue in the FA Carling Premiership or Nationwide League this season; and the Swindon defence had been breached 21 times in their past seven matches.

Predictably, the opposite prevailed. Swindon and Birmingham huffed and puffed for 82 minutes, before producing a solitary score. Gary Rowett jumped alone at the far post, met Martin Grainger's free kick and beat Frank Talia with a header.

Amid the weekend's sporting extravaganza — FA Cup *semi-finals, Grand National*, Masters, Brazilian Grand Prix, Five Nations rugby, Naseem Hamed bout — the result held little significance. Birmingham won the right to take part in the end-of-season play-offs for first division and Swindon confirmed that they should escape relegation.

On a parochial scale, it meant a lot. Birmingham have laboured in the shadows of Aston Villa and perhaps now they are ready to play alongside them in the Premiership. The Easter blip of one point from a possible six had been erased from the memory and they were back on track for the big time.

"Second place and the automatic promotion place is probably beyond us but we're getting better and better," Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, said. "We've been consistent and I'm very pleased with our progress."

The blip — a 0-0 draw away to Crewe Alexandra and a 2-1 home defeat against Watford — had caused consternation in the blue half of England's second city. "It's always the same," Francis said. "One defeat and the club is in crisis."

Watson struck a post and Onuora and Howe were narrowly off target as the game sprung to life, with Swindon pressing forward, in the closing 15 minutes of the first half. Birmingham, resolute and and reorganised after the retirement of Johnson at half-time, with a hamstring injury, bided their time.

SWINDON TOWN (3-5-2): F Talia - G Davies, G Hall, C Taylor - D Linton, S Howe (sub: M Walters, 67min), K Watson, G Ndah, T Gooden - I Onuora (sub: C Hay, 73), S Bradley

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-3-3): K Poole - G Rowett, D Holdsworth, M Johnson (sub: M O'Connor, 46), M Grainger - S Robinson, G Hyde, B Hughes - J McCarthy, D Adebola (sub: P Ndlovu, 67), N Forster

Referee: R Furnandiz

Sharpe finish allows Jewell to launch charm offensive

Bradford City	2
Portsmouth	1

By Martin Woods

THE fingernail stock plummeted once more around Valley Parade as Paul Jewell's promotion-chasing team were forced to withstand a second-half siege by Portsmouth, who had fallen behind to what Alan Ball, their spin-doctor-manager, called two flukes.

That the Bradford City man of the match was Ashley Westwood, the centre half, spoke volumes for the balance of power in the second period, but Westwood's manager also displayed laser-sharp defensive qualities when dismissing Ball's flukey-goals theory.

"I hope, over the next five games, we win by two flukes as well." Jewell, a man who identifies with Gary Player's golfing maxim that the more he practised the luckier he got, said.

It is already understood among the City supporters that this final sequence of games carries a health warning. The West Yorkshire derby against Huddersfield Town, on Saturday, and the final game of the season, away to Wolverhampton Wanderers on May 9, will, no doubt, age the average City fan by ten years. A small price to pay, they reckon, to return to the top flight for the first time in 77 years.

On Saturday, it was the City players who most resembled addicts waking up and setting about getting their first fix of the day. Without it, in City's case a goal, they are rather shambolic. It arrived after 25 minutes — Lee Sharpe the artistic creator, Lee Mills the executioner. Sharpe, despite his recent history of injury and enforced idleness, remains a thoroughbred and his signing, on loan until the end of the season, may yet prove Jewell's masterstroke. For the second week in succession, his liaison with Peter Beagrie promised much and delivered a goal. McCall found Beagrie on the left touchline. He delivered a sumptuous cross to Sharpe inside the box and his header sailed past Knight.



Sharpe: headed goal

After the break, City fell into their baffling role-playing mode of a side on the verge of a breakdown. Portsmouth took advantage and pulled a goal back after 67 minutes through Durnin.

"Another disappointing performance — another victory," Jewell said. "We're not second in the league after 41 games by being flukey."

BRADFORD CITY (4-4-2): G Walsh — J Lawrence, D Moore, A Westwood, W Jacobs — L Sharpe, S McCall, G Whalley, P Beagrie (sub: A O'Brien, 85min) — L Mills, D Windass (sub: R Blake, 71)

PORTSMOUTH (5-3-2): A Knight — M Robinson, A Whitbread, A Awford, M Vlachos, F Simpson — J Peron (sub: T Thogersen, 45), A McLoughlin, S Igoe — J Durnin, S Claridge

Referee: S Baines

Sunderland prepare to flush away lingering doubts

Sunderland	2
Huddersfield Town	0

By George Caulkin

THE claim has not been tested yet, but it will. That the sewage system at the Stadium of Light is capable of flushing away 42,500 pints of liquid over the course of half-time seems an impressive statistic, until the consequences of Sunderland's next home game are considered. Something to celebrate, as they surely must, a crowd in excess of 41,000 and suddenly that lavatorial capacity may appear a little fragile.

Those who did not wear Wellington boots on Saturday have gained a valuable lesson well in advance of Sheffield United's visit in 12 days time. The blessed relief craved by the supporters, the players, an entire club geared towards a higher calling, is of a related nature: the closer they inch towards their inevitable promotion, the longer their remaining journey seems to stretch in front of them.

The floodgates might already have opened if Portsmouth had won away to Bradford City on Saturday, but finally, thankfully, tomorrow night may bring an end to the misery of suspended animation. Victory away to Bury would confirm Sunderland's return to the FA Carling Premiership after two years. The wait has been interminable.

"We're just desperate to crawl over that winning line now," Niall Quinn, a keen racing man, said. Quinn, who, having won £2,500 for a local charity and a few bob for himself by backing the Grand National winner, knows a little about one-horse races. "Every time I've played against Bury it has been a tough game, but hopefully we can do enough to scrape through." Certainly, one would not dare to bet against it.

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Quinn opened the scoring in this ordinary affair, courtesy of a diagonal through-ball delivered by the outstanding Lee Clark, taken on his chest and flicked towards the target. Nico Vaesen, the Huddersfield Town goalkeeper, managed to get a touch, but it was insufficient to prevent the shot trickling over the line.

On another day, Kevin Phillips might have finished with the match ball, but on this occasion had to be content with his role in Sunderland's second goal, shielding a cross from Nicky Summerbee into the path of Allan Johnston, who volleyed from 18 yards in the 41st minute. The rest was played out on autopilot.

"There are no sign of nerves from my players," Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, said. "They just keep rolling out the results. We know it's not going to be easy at Bury and they haven't got the best pitch in the world, but when these games come up, we seem to have what it takes."

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): T Sorensen — C Makin, A Melville, P Butler, M Gray — N Summerbee (sub: M Bridges, 71min), L Clark, K Ball (sub: D Holloway, 71), A Johnston — N Quinn (sub: D Dichio, 71), K Phillips

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (3-4-3): N Vaesen — S Collins, S Jenkins, C Armstrong — S Baldry, L Richardson (sub: S Hessey, 81), R Edwards, J Vincent — I Lawson (sub: B Thornley, 81), W Allison, M Stewart

Referee: B Burns

Taylor's team-talk aids Orient cause

Leyton Orient	1
Cardiff City	1

By Nick Szczepanik

AN inconclusive result on a day of similar outcomes at the top of the Nationwide League third division: Cardiff City remain in the automatic promotion positions, while Leyton Orient maintain their place among the play-off contenders. If anything, Orient can breathe a little easier thanks to the defeat of Plymouth Argyle at home to Brighton.

At least it turned out to be an eventful game after an unpromising opening half-hour when Cardiff's only attacking idea, a long ball in the general direction of John Williams, was one idea more than Orient had. Cardiff began to show their quality, however, and took the lead four minutes before half-time when Williams capitalised on a rebound from his own header.

Whatever Tommy Taylor, the Orient manager, said during the interval clearly roused his team — to the extent that he mused afterwards on the possibility of giving half-time talks before kick-off in future — and Lockwood's inswinging corner, headed in off his own crossbar by Eckhardt in the fiftieth minute, made a game of it.

The visiting team continued to play the better football and Williams set up an excellent chance that Carpenter wasted, but Orient nearly snatched it. Halworth parried Watts's shot at point-blank range, deserving his luck when the ricochet off Baker bounced into his arms instead of the gaping goal: Taylor conceded that it would have been an injustice had Cardiff lost.

"We had more possession, but never used it," Frank Burrows, the Cardiff manager, said. "Teams are not going to lie down. Every game is going to be a cup final."

LEYTON ORIENT (3-5-2): S Barrett — M Joseph, D Smith, S Clark — A Richards, W Walschaerts (sub: S Canham, 69min), M Ling, D Morrison (R Joseph, 72), M Lockwood — S Watts, C Maskell (sub: J Baker, 45)

CARDIFF CITY (3-5-2): J Halworth — J Eckhardt, G Mitchell, M Ford — W O'Sullivan, D Hill (sub: M Bonner, 89), R Carpenter, J Fowler (sub: C Middleton, 89), A Legg — J Bowen (sub: D Thomas, 73), J Williams

Referee: L Cable

Not Bad, but no Thriller

Fulham	2
Wigan Athletic	0

By Bill Edgar

THE Fulham juggernaut has become unstoppable. Made roadworthy by Mohamed Al Fayed and driven single-mindedly by Kevin Keegan, it showed on Saturday that it can even take a diversion into a carnival procession without losing momentum. The parading of Michael Jackson before kick-off might have distracted other teams, but not Fulham. The club's ability for self-promotion will be matched by promotion from the Nationwide League second division if Gillingham are beaten at home tomorrow.

Had he known of West Ham United's association with bubbles, Jackson might have chosen instead to watch them in honour of his pet chimpanzee. As it was, the Craven Cottage turf had the privilege of supporting the most famous feet in pop music, Fulham's owner having invited his friend to the game after showing him around Harrods earlier in the day.

Keegan, the Fulham chief operating officer, joined in the fun when it was suggested that some onlookers felt the special guest could have been a lookalike. "There are plenty of them that you can hire in London," he joked. Keegan added that Jackson, who wore a black, wide-brimmed trilby hat, was attracted to a picture on the wall that showed a Fulham team from the 1920s. "He was fascinated because they all had hats on like his."

Dick Knight, the Brighton and Hove Albion chairman, hopes to appoint Micky Adams, 37, reserve team coach at Nottingham Forest, *as manager in time for the* home game tomorrow against Shrewsbury Town.

Jackson's appearance was such a closely guarded secret that there was even scepticism about his authenticity on Al Fayed's own London-based radio station, Liberty, which, unhindered by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, carries commentary on all Fulham's games. If Jackson's presence was incongruous, then Fulham are equally out of place in the second division. An utterly inevitable thirteenth consecutive home win was secured by second-half goals from two international defenders, Philippe Albert and Kit Symons.

The occasion appeared to induce stage fright in the visitors. Wigan Athletic have never won a league game in front of any five-figure attendance, let alone one containing a superstar. Liddell did hit a post early on, but his side lacked attacking ambition against a Fulham team that *ground out victory without producing its familiar sparkle.*

The home match against Preston North End should be Fulham's last at this level, and a familiar name will be there to see them off to the first division. One of Preston's regular defenders is named Michael Jackson.

FULHAM (3-5-2): M Taylor — K Symons (sub: S Morgan, 80min), P Albert, C Coleman — J Smith (sub: P Peschisolido, 58), S Finnan, S Hayward (sub: N Smith, 80), P Trollope, R Brevett — B Hayles, G Horsfield.

WIGAN ATHLETIC (3-5-2): R Carroll — P McGibbon (sub: S Green, 46), C Greenall, S Balmer — C Bradshaw, A Porter (sub: D Lee, 59), M O'Neil, P Rogers, K Sharp — S Haworth, A Liddell.

Referee: F Stretton

Augusta looks to the stars to provide the Masters' closing ceremony

Olazabal gets back to his very best

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN AUGUSTA

THE 63rd Masters, which began in somewhat muted tone, was reaching a pulsating climax in the fourth round yesterday. Augusta National Golf Club basked beneath a steamy heat as competitors prepared for perhaps the most thrilling last day in the history of an event that consistently delivers more excitement over its closing holes than any other of the game's four major championships. José Maria Olazábal, the 1994 champion, was trying to protect the one-stroke lead he held over one of the most star-studded leaderboards in all golf.

Olazábal, who had led since Friday, was seven under par and showing no signs of buckling. The Spaniard is a good front runner, not afraid to be the man everyone else is aiming to catch. Indeed, his homeward nine holes on Saturday showed the courageous measure of the man. He had played poorly going to the turn and dropped two strokes but, as it probably began to feel to him as though the heat and pressure were trying to push him into the ground, he covered his homeward half in one under par, scoring a birdie at the 15th and then parring in seemingly nervelessly.

Even Olazábal, however, would be tested by the quality of the men behind him, particularly over the last nine holes where, tradition has it, the Masters is always won or lost. There were twenty-three golfers within six strokes of the lead and twelve other winners of major championships within seven strokes of the Spaniard. Greg Norman was the closest, one stroke behind Olazábal. Two strokes behind were Davis Love III — who had the opportunity to open up a two-stroke lead over the field on the 15th hole of the third round, only to fall foul of the 15th hole, like so many before him, and drop two strokes — and Steve Pate, nicknamed the Volcano, who had played imperiously in the third round when he set a new Masters record of seven successive birdies in a round of 65.

Pate is accident prone, having been injured in a car accident on the eve of the 1991 Ryder Cup, and been run over by a deer while he was riding a bicycle in his own drive. To his caddie, however, he is not as fiery as his reputation would suggest. "He is like a dormant volcano," Allan Mellan, his caddie, said. "Every now and then, there's some seismic activity."

Then, there was Carlos Franco, one of 28 professionals in Paraguay, who grew up in a small house with inadequate plumbing. In a rags to riches story, of the type that could occur only in the United States, Franco qualified for the US tour by one stroke last December and now lies in joint fifth place, three strokes behind Olazábal and level with Lee Janzen, the reigning US Open champion, and Ernie Els, who has won the US Open twice since 1993.

Following closely are Lee Westwood and Tiger Woods, jointly on 214, two under par, as are Bernhard Langer and Phil Mickelson. Colin Montgomerie, on 213, and David Duval, who is six strokes behind Olazábal, are also in sight. Does six strokes sound a lot to make up in the last round of the Masters? It should not, because that was precisely Norman's margin over Nick Faldo at the start of the fourth round here in 1996. We all know that, by the end of the day, Faldo had overtaken Norman and won by five strokes.

Norman and Olazábal were bound together in friendship and medical history as well as in strict competition for this year's green jacket. Both men have undergone extensive surgery — Olazábal to correct a back injury that was first diagnosed as a foot injury, from which he only recovered in 1997, and Norman, who had to take seven months off last year to have his injured left shoulder repaired.

"When José Maria was going through a hard time with his back injury and surgery, I made a point of staying in touch and giving him support and he did the same for me when I was going through my surgery," Norman said. "He was one of the few players who called or dropped a note. We have been united in our surgery, you might say."

There was sentimental support for both these men, but the greater support was for Norman. When he returned to the 12th tee to play a second ball, having hit his first into a bush over the back of the green, the ovation he received was enormous. "You could feel the emotion coming out of them," Norman said. "That's the most emotion I ever felt on a course." Little wonder, then, that Norman hit this shot to within 22 feet and holed the putt for a bogey four that was described by one veteran commentator as "the most courageous hole I've seen played for a long time".

Montgomerie has played better here this year than ever before, although his finish last year — eighth — was his best at Augusta and in a major championship all year. He has maintained his dignity, kept his mind in the present and not been riled by the odd jibe that has come his way.

"Mentally, this is very difficult," Montgomerie said on Saturday. "The moment you relax out here, you take a double bogey. Every shot is key. Tomorrow is very important for me — one of the most important rounds in my career. If I can go out and shoot a 69 tomorrow, I can win."



Olazábal looks forward hopefully as he drives off the second tee during the third round of the Masters in Augusta. He began the round with a one-stroke lead.

LEADING SCORES FROM AUGUSTA

United States unless stated
* denotes an amateur

THIRD ROUND: 209: J M Olazábal (Sp) 70, 66, 73. 210: G Norman (Aus) 71, 68, 71. 211: S Pate 71, 75, 66, D Love 69, 72, 70. 212: C Franco (Par) 72, 72, 68; E Els (SA) 71, 72, 69; R Estes 71, 72, 69, L Janzen 70, 69, 73. 213: S Elkington (Aus) 72, 70, 71, C Montgomerie (GB) 70, 72, 71; N Price (Zim) 69, 72, 72; S McCarron 69, 68, 76. 214: L Westwood (GB) 75, 71, 68, T Woods 72, 72, 70; P Mickelson 74, 69, 71; B Langer (Ger) 76, 66, 72. 215: M O'Meara 70, 76, 69, J Sluman 70, 75, 70; J Furyk 72, 73, 70, S Cink 74, 70, 71, D Duval 71, 74, 70; J Leonard 70, 72, 73, W Glasson 72, 70, 73, B Faxon 74, 73, 68. 216: B Watts 73, 73, 70; I Woosnam (GB) 71, 74, 71, R Mediate 73, 74, 69, S Stricker 75, 72, 69. 217: B Jobe 72, 71, 74; B Chamblee 69, 73, 75; J Huston 74, 72, 71. 218: C Stadler 72, 76, 70, A Lyle (GB) 71, 77, 70; S Hoch 75, 73, 70, T Lehman 73, 72, 73, T Herron 75, 69, 74, P-U Johansson (Swe) 75, 72, 71; L Mize 76, 70, 72. 219: S Maruyama (Japan) 78, 70, 71, J Daly 72, 76, 71; V Singh (Fiji) 72, 76, 71; A Magee 70, 77, 72; C Perry 73, 72, 74; R Floyd 74, 73, 72. 220: O Browne 74, 74, 72, W Andrade 76, 72, 72, * T McKnight 73, 74, 73. 221: * M Kuchar 77, 71, 73; C Parry (Aus) 75, 73, 73; F Couples 74, 71, 76. 222: * S Garcia (Sp) 72, 75, 75, J Haas 74, 69, 79. 223: M Brooks 76, 72, 75. 225: P Stewart 73, 75, 77. 226: R Tway 75, 73, 78, * T Immelman (SA) 72, 76, 78.



Pate, whose seven birdies were a record, could yet slip up

SNOOKER

Hamilton secures early advantage

BY PHIL YATES

THE British Open, which has had more unexpected winners than any other world ranking tournament, was set to produce another in Plymouth last night when Anthony Hamilton and Fergal O'Brien were battling for the £60,000 first prize.

Hamilton, who, in common with his opponent, was making his first appearance in the final of a leading event, settled immediately. He accounted for the first two frames with breaks of 110 and a 134 total clearance.

Considering his lack of experience with so much at stake, Hamilton's achievement was highly commendable, particularly in the light of a 30-minute delay to proceedings because of the previous attraction on Sky Sports, the Manchester United v Arsenal FA Cup semi-final, going into extra time.

O'Brien has been a model of determination and never more so than when edging John Higgins, the title-holder, 6-5 in an enthralling semi-final on Saturday night. This attitude shone through in the deciding frame when, having been pegged back from 5-3 to 5-5, he compiled a 68 break.

The stubbornness of O'Brien again proved an asset in the third frame of the final. He won it on the pink before snatching the fourth on the black with a 57 clearance after Hamilton, 60-10 ahead, had misjudged a crucial red.

Runs of 45 and 59 enabled O'Brien to move ahead at 3-2 but Hamilton, a 6-1 conqueror of Jimmy Michie in the semi-final, demonstrated his own tenacity to claim the closing two frames with runs of 61 and 64.

It left Hamilton, the world No 11, requiring five of the remaining ten frames to achieve a significant career breakthrough and join the list of surprise British Open champions which includes Silvino Francisco, the first winner in 1985, Tony Meo and Bob Chaperon, a 250-1 success story in 1990.

Hamilton had the edge but O'Brien remained in contention to join Ken Doherty, the 1997 world champion, as the only player from Ireland to win a world ranking tournament.

Lynette Horsburgh won a tense battle with Tessa Davidson to win the women's British Open. Horsburgh, 25, won 4-3 on the blue to win the £1,000 first prize.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Perrin the source of City's frustration

St Albans City 1
Forest Green Rovers...........1

BY WALTER GAMMIE

A FRUSTRATING, untidy match left Forest Green Rovers in seeming control of the FA Umbro Trophy semi-final with the second leg to come at The Lawn on Sunday.

The Nationwide Conference side may yet become the first to win the Trophy having previously won the FA Vase, which they did when in the Hellenic League in 1982, but not if they play as poorly as they did on Saturday at Clarence Park, according to Frank Gregan, their manager. They failed to capitalise on taking the lead in the first minute with a penalty by Jason Drysdale after Lomas, the St Albans goalkeeper, had caught McGregor as he pursued a ball across the top of the area.

In the brief spells when Forest Green produced controlled football they created chances, Vickers hurtling back to dispossess Mehew, Winter having a 25-yard shot acrobatically palmed round the post by Lomas and a header from Hedges hitting the post.

For the rest, the visitors had to weather a determined St Albans assault that cracked the defence only with a sweet left-foot shot by Risley in the 21st minute. Standing firm in the frenzy was Steve Perrin, substitute goalkeeper for Shuttlewood, who departed with a shoulder injury. Perrin, a recognised deputy but a figure "built for comfort", Gregan suggested, handled with assurance and pulled off a fine save from Haworth to keep the Ryman League side at bay.

ST ALBANS CITY (4-4-2): A Lomas — T Meredith, M Bodley, A Vickers, P Risley — R Haworth, P Turner, J Pollard (sub: A Polston, 88min), M Jones — J McDougald, S Clark.
FOREST GREEN ROVERS (3-4-1-2): J Shuttlewood (sub: S Perrin, 38) — I Hedges, M Kilgour, D Forbes — M Coupe, C Honor, D Bailey, J Drysdale — S Winter (sub: A Sykes, 81) — M McGregor, D Mehew (sub: D Birkby, 59)
Referee: P Robinson

GOLF

Watson's carry title north of the border

BY MEL WEBB

WATSON'S claimed the first victory by a Scottish team for 12 years in the Halford Hewitt Cup at Royal Cinque Ports yesterday, but after an all-powerful display in the earlier rounds they did not have it all their own way in the final.

In the five rounds leading up to the final against Tonbridge, Watson's had played 25 individual matches and had lost only two of them. They were the obvious favourites against Tonbridge, but the old boys of the Kent school had already given notice of their own form by conceding only four matches themselves as they advanced through the lower half of the draw.

In the end, Watson's beat Tonbridge, but there were several memorable moments before they prevailed 3-2. The bottom two matches brought one easy victory for each team, but the other three were close all the way to the line. Watson's won the second match by one hole and Tonbridge the third, 2 and 1, leaving the top match between Richard Johnston and Andrew Turner of Watson's and Mike Hall and Chris Lloyd of Tonbridge, to decide it. The Tonbridge pair were one up playing the 17th, but then Turner holed a 17-foot putt to win the hole and keep Watson's alive.

The tide was now flowing Watson's way. They won the 18th and, with all matches in the final played to a finish, the Scots duly settled it on the 19th hole after Tonbridge missed the fairway.

In the semi-finals, Malvern suffered yet another disappointment, and have now played in 20 semi-finals and six finals in the 75 years of the event, but have yet to win it.

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SPEEDWAY

Stephens set to make way for new signing

BY TONY HOARE

EASTBOURNE are set to announce a new signing this week after their home defeat by Poole on Saturday night in the Craven Shield. The Eagles lost 49-41 to their South Coast rivals, making it three defeats in a row for the Sussex club.

Their reserve riders have been the main source of concern and Seemond Stephens, signed from St Austell in the close season, is likely to make way for a new signing once Eastbourne have finished their home encounter with Belle Vue on Saturday night. Jon Cook, the Eastbourne co-promoter, said Stephens had asked about his future after a poor start to the season.

"Seemond will probably ride his last meeting for the club for a while next Saturday," Cook said. "We have gone with an experimental team this year, but we haven't had the strength in reserve."

Cook has an unnamed rider lined up to replace Stephens, who has already attracted attention from a number of clubs in the Premier League.

Poole's victory continued their unbeaten start to the Craven Shield campaign, following on from a home victory over the Eagles on Wednesday and a draw at Belle Vue on Friday. The Pirates were led by Mark Loram, their winter signing, who scored 35 points in the three meetings.

Tony Rickardsson will appear before a disciplinary hearing today to explain his absence from King's Lynn's visit to Coventry on Easter Monday. It is expected Rickardsson, the world champion from Sweden, will tell the British Speedway Promoters' Association management committee that he faced a ban from the Swedish authorities if he did not fulfil a commitment in Poland.

EQUESTRIANISM

Evans comes back to claim victory

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

ANNE-MARIE EVANS and Dutch Treat made an impressive return to advanced competition when they won the special advanced section of the Pedigree Chum Dynes Hall horse trials in Essex yesterday.

Evans, who had to miss the world championships last September when the 14-year-old gelding banged its splint bone, had a foot-perfect cross-country round over the acclaimed course to finish with a score of 45. "The going was perfect and everything just flowed," Evans said.

Despite his return to fitness, Dutch Treat, who finished seventh at Punchestown last year, will now compete only in one-day-events. His goal is the new Chatsworth event next month.

In a close contest, Pippa Funnell and Walk On Topfinished second, a point behind. Kristina Gifford underlined the return to form of General Jock when she finished third with a score of 47, despite being held up on the course for 14 minutes while a fence — at which Eddy Stibbe had fallen — was being repaired.

Gifford, who has had a three-year run of bad luck that culminated in her withdrawal from the world championship squad last year, now has an enviable string of horses. General Jock and Harbinger, on which she was 23rd yesterday, go to Badminton next month. The Gangster, a strapping nine-year-old, flies to the United States tomorrow for the Kentucky three-day-event.

Blyth Tait, of New Zealand, the world champion, and Mark Todd, the double Olympic champion, completed their warm-up for Kentucky. Tait was eighth on Aspyring. Todd had six faults in the showjumping, on Stunning, and finished seventeenth.

MOTOR RACING: McLAREN MERCEDES OF WORLD هكذا من الأصل ST FOR OPPOSITION IN BRAZIL

Hakkinen drives home advantage

FROM KEVIN EASON
IN SAO PAULO

JUST for a few magical minutes, it seemed that the world champion would show enough frailty to allow Formula One to revel in romance. Only the gremlins that have afflicted his McLaren Mercedes seemed able to prevent Mika Hakkinen from claiming victory in the Brazilian Grand Prix yesterday. He had swept around the Interlagos circuit over the past three days at a pace so clearly beyond his rivals that the 72 laps of the grand prix seemed mere formality.

But in Formula One, winning is never a formality and on the starting grid was a man with the willpower of Brazil behind him: Rubens Barrichello, successor to Ayrton Senna, the three-times champion. However, this world champion refused to be denied a tenth career victory. Behind him came Michael Schumacher, his Ferrari still not on terms with the speed of the McLaren, while Heinz-Harald Frentzen achieved an impressive second podium in his first two races for Jordan.

Eddie Irvine lived up to his promise of consistency, driving a steady and unremarkable race to fifth, enough to remain championship leader and keep Ferrari ahead of McLaren Mercedes in the constructors' table.

David Coulthard and Hakkinen had spent the weekend fretting that they might suffer more of the technical glitches that had put them out of the first grand prix of the season in Australia and their fears were to be realised as soon as the lights went out.

Coulthard's right arm shot into the air to signal he had stalled, a red tide of Ferraris sweeping past him to give chase to Hakkinen and Barrichello. Frentzen also burst past the Jordan Mugen Honda of Damon Hill, his teammate, who was to suffer another disastrous day after his first-lap exit in Australia.

As mechanics hurriedly pushed Coulthard's car back to the pits, Hakkinen appeared ready to stamp the authority on the race, drawing rapidly away from Barrichello and the rest of the field to a near two-second lead within three laps. Then, as the world champion passed the pit exit for the fourth time, he inexplicably cut off the power and Barrichello tore past to lead a race for the first time for Stewart Ford. Hakkinen, meanwhile, was forced to slot into third place behind Michael Schumacher, his old adversary, and the one driver he did not want to follow.

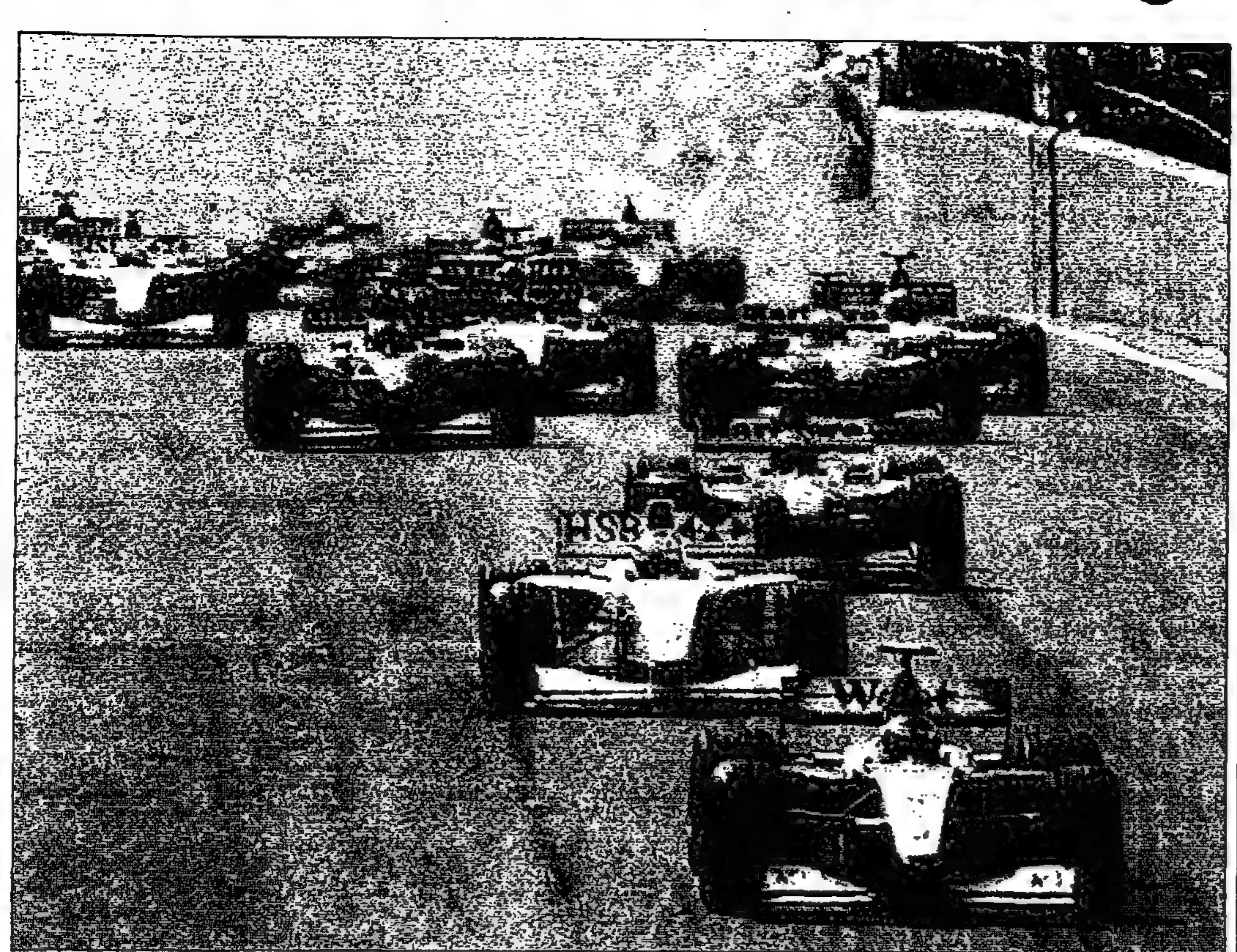
It was a moment of ecstasy for the Brazilian fans, who have been galvanized by their countryman's emergence as a genuine contender in Formula One. Barrichello had spoken movingly yesterday about how he wanted to capture the imagination of his home country in the way Ayrton Senna did, but even he could barely believe the scale of support.

Fans came in record numbers to see the man they were dubbing "the new Senna". More than 2,000 policemen were drafted in to shepherd the near-100,000 spectators into grandstands with their flags and samba drums. As he passed around the circuit, set in a bowl with a magnificent view of his São Paulo hometown as a backdrop, he was followed by a Mexican wave of near-hysterical support.

His drive was as pulsating as it was nerve-wracking, but the writing was on the wall from the moment Johnny Herbert, Barrichello's British team-mate, ground to a halt with mechanical failure after 12 laps. The Stewart Ford's vulnerability cost the Brazilian dear last year and the car's breakdown, when his engine seized at the end of lap 43, ensured that he is still seeking his elusive maiden victory.

There was no comfort for Hill either. The race was barely under way when he made an ambitious attempt to dart down the inside of the Benetton of Alexander Wurz. Unfortunately, Wurz shut the door on Hill, with the result that they banged wheels, damaging the Jordan's suspension.

Coulthard's race also went from bad to worse. Starting three laps down, his McLaren started to develop more problems, preventing him from completing half the race. It was another depressing day for a man forced yet again to watch from the pit garage as his team-mate reeled off lap after lap. Having lost the lead once, Hakkinen was in no mood to make any further mistakes once Schumacher and Barrichello had their pit stops, leaving him a clear path to the chequered flag.



Hakkinen leads the rest of the field trailing as he drives his McLaren Mercedes to victory at Interlagos yesterday. Photograph: Gregg Newton/Reuters

INTERLAGOS DETAILS

RESULT: 1, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren) 1hr 36min 3.785sec; 2, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari); 3, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Jordan); 4, R Schumacher (Ger, Williams); 5, E Irvine (GB, Ferrari); 6, O Panis (Fr, Prost).

QUALIFYING TIMES: 1, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren) 1min 16.568sec; 2, D Coulthard (GB, McLaren) 1:16.715; 3, R Barrichello (Br, Stewart) 1:17.305; 4, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1:17.578; 5, G Fisichella (It, Benetton) 1:17.810; 6, E Irvine (Ire, Ferrari) 1:17.843; 7, D Hill (GB, Jordan) 1:17.884; 8, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Jordan) 1:17.902; 9, A Wurz (Austria, Benetton) 1:18.334; 10, J Herbert (GB, Stewart) 1:18.374; 11, R Schumacher (Ger, Williams) 1:18.506; 12, O Panis (Fr, Prost) 1:18.636; 13, J Trulli (It, Prost) 1:18.684; 14, J Alesi (Fr, Sauber) 1:18.716; 15, P Diniz (Br, Sauber) 1:19.194; 16, J Villeneuve (Can, BAR) 1:19.377; 17, A Zanardi (It, Williams) 1:19.452; 18, P De la Rosa (Sp, Arrows) 1:19.979; 19, S Sarrazin (Fr, Minardi) 1:20.016; 20, T Takagi (Japan, Arrows) 1:20.098; 21, M Gene (Sp, Minardi) 1:20.710.

CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS: Drivers: 1, Irvine 12pts; equal 2, Hakkinen and Frentzen 10; 4, Schumacher 7; 5, M Schumacher 6; 6, Fisichella 3; 7, Barrichello 2; equal 8, De la Rosa and Panis 1. **Constructors:** 1, Ferrari 18; equal 2, McLaren and Jordan 10; 4, Williams 7; 5, Benetton 3; 6, Stewart 2; equal 7, Arrows and Prost 1.

GRANDS PRIX TO COME: May 2: San Marino (Imola). May 16: Monaco (Monte Carlo). May 30: Spanish (Barcelona). June 13: Canadian (Montreal). June 27: French (Magny-Cours). July 11: British (Silverstone). July 25: Austrian (Zeltwig). Aug 1: German (Hockenheim). Aug 15: Hungarian (Budapest). Aug 29: Belgian (Spa-Francorchamps). Sept 12: Italian (Monza). Sept 26: European (Nürburgring). Oct 17: Malaysian (Kuala Lumpur). Oct 31: Japanese (Suzuka).

BASKETBALL

James laughs off Donewald's antics

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

OFFICIALS, opponents and even visiting supporters. They have all in time been subjected to the anger of Bob Donewald, the Derby Storm coach, until on Saturday when he came up with a protest of novelty value. He vented his ire on the foul count markers, knocking them down where they were stacked on the table of Bob English, the commissioner.

Donewald incurred his latest technical offence of a troublesome season as Derby lost 91-87 to Thames Valley Tigers in the first leg of their Budweiser Championship quarter-final play-off. Donewald stepped out of line midway through the second quarter as he complained about a decision.

Yet if anyone had cause for complaint it was the Tigers, who refused to succumb to provocation. "We haven't got the players who will mix it, just players who play hard," Paul James, the coach, said.

James had been taken to task by Donewald for taunting his squad by breaking an unwritten code of calling a time-out 14 seconds from the end of his team's league meeting two months ago. "I just wanted our fans to enjoy our victory," James said.

Yorick Williams returned from a seven-game ban but could not spark the Storm to victory. Nate Reinking, with 24 points, bettered Williams's tally of 19. Derby once trailed by as many as 11 points before levelling the score three minutes from the end.

Casey Arena scored 25 points for the Tigers, which included seven three pointers. Under the baskets, John McCord and Jason Siemon received significant help from Stuart Clark.

A 14-point haul to Peter Deppisch in the first quarter inspired the Leopards to an 83-76 quarter-final defeat of Sheffield Sharks.

HOCKEY

Beeston find nothing but honour in draw

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

A CREDITABLE 3-3 draw with Southgate at Trent Park yesterday was not enought to earn Beeston a place among the top four in the premier division of the National League.

After Diamond had converted a short corner in the seventeenth minute, Giles increased Southgate's lead two minutes before the interval from a pass by Simons.

Beeston's spirits were revived in the 42nd minute when a short corner, well struck by Keegan, led to a penalty stroke which Keegan himself converted, but Giles scored again for Southgate from a short corner in the 51st minute. Beeston hit back with a goal by Edington and another by Huckle.

The victory that Beeston were seeking would not have mattered, for Canterbury consolidated their position with a 9-2 victory over Guildford to make sure of fourth position. Mathews scored five goals for Canterbury, the first from a penalty stroke and the remaining four from short corners.

The top four teams, Cannock, Southgate, Reading and Canterbury will assemble at Reading this weekend for play-offs, from which two teams will qualify for the premier division final at Milton Keynes on May 3.

□ A goal in the seventh minute of extra time from Claire Ferguson, the Doncaster captain, helped the Yorkshire club to retain their place in the premier division when they beat Aldridge 2-0 in the second leg of the play-offs.

Trailing 1-0 after the first leg, Charlotte Tomlin put Doncaster, the home side, ahead in the 39th minute when she dived full length to touch in a cross on the reverse stick, and Ruth Brooke set up the second when she broke down the left and found Ferguson, who put away the winner from close range.

BOWLS

Coupland shows that age is no barrier

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

AT a time when bowlers seem to be getting younger by the minute, the spectacle of Jack Coupland, who will be 85 in June, trotting up the rink in the quarter-finals of the national indoor fours championship at Melton Mowbray yesterday morning, was a sight for sore eyes.

Coupland, a retired engraver, was called up to play for Stuart Thomas's quartet when Leicester's regular lead, Les Storer, announced that his wife had booked a family holiday in Goa for the week of the national finals.

"I think I'd have killed her," Coupland chuckled yesterday, after enjoying an Indian summer of his own. "But I'm thrilled it gave me my chance to play at Melton."

On Saturday Coupland, who has been playing bowls for 50 years, and won the national mixed fours title in 1981, was in action for more than nine hours, earning admiration for his contribution to Leicester's wins over South Forest and Sunderland.

"I only wish I could have maintained my form today," he added, after Leicester went down, 24-17, to Chipping Norton, skipped by Les Gillett.

Gillett, who steered Banbury Borough to the equivalent outdoor title in Worthing last August, recently alleged that he had been attacked by his England team-mates after the international series in Bournemouth last month.

Aged 28, he made his mark when he won the International Open in 1997, and was The Times English Bowler of the Year in 1998 after reaching the national outdoor finals in all four events.

In the quarter-finals yesterday, Cumbria, the favourites, scraped home, 18-17, after Trevor Taylor, 23, their skip, played an inch-perfect draw to the jack with his last bowl on a tense extra end.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Tafi triumphant as Mapei dominate

■ **CYCLING:** Andrea Tafi, the Italian national champion, has won the third round of the 1999 World Cup series, the Paris-Roubaix Classic in Northern France (Jeremy Whittle writes). Tafi's spectacular solo success followed a run of high placings in the brutal cobbled race, and came after he broke clear of the other pre-race favourites, 37 kilometres from the finish in the Roubaix Velodrom.

It was the third time in four years that Tafi's Mapei team had dominated the event as they again filled all top three placings. Wilfried Peeters, of Belgium, was second with Tom Steels, his compatriot, third. Andrei Tchmil, also of Belgium, the winner of the Milan-San Remo in March, reassumed leadership of the World Cup before the Liège-Bastogne-Liège Classic in the Belgian Ardennes, which takes place next weekend.

Radcliffe back to form

■ **ATHLETICS:** Paula Radcliffe has broken her British and Commonwealth 10,000-metre records after winning the European 10-kilometre Challenge in Bilbao. Radcliffe finished in 30min 40.70sec to take eight seconds off her record set when finishing second at the annual challenge event in Lisbon a year ago. The performance delighted the Bedford runner, who was disappointed after being placed only third in the world cross-country championships in Belfast last month, when she desperately wanted the gold medal.

Monnickendam's title

■ **ROWING:** Giles Monnickendam, from Nottingham, has taken the Scullers Head title. Monnickendam, a lightweight, started third in the 338-boat flotilla and overtook Guy Pooley, the 1992 winner (Mike Rosewell writes). Monnickendam also closed on Ian Watson, who took a last-minute decision to race after a lay-off because of a back injury and found himself leading off the field after Greg Searle, the 1998 champion, withdrew. Sue Appelboom finally became fastest woman, having finished second on three previous occasions.

Essex Met keep crownt

■ **NETBALL:** Essex Met upset Middlesex 53-41 to retain the English Counties League title at Trent Park. Essex Met had to win by 11 goals to end the unbeaten run of Middlesex and capture the title on superior goal average. Judith Mann and Tracy Bartram stood out for Essex Met.

SCORING QUARTERS (Middlesex first): 15-12, 20-29, 31-38, 41-53. Middlesex: M Buck 37/45, L Sdeo 4/7. Essex Met: L Law 34/42, T Bartram 19/25.

Agassi resumes in front

■ **TENNIS:** Andre Agassi and Boris Becker will resume battle today in the final of the Hong Kong Open after three interruptions for rain yesterday. When play was suspended, Agassi was leading 2-0 in the third set and the players were level at one set each. They were meeting for the first time since 1995 and it may be the last as Becker announced this week that he will retire after Wimbledon.

Day delivers nap hand

■ **RUGBY:** England won the inaugural women's Five Nations Championship with an outstanding 83-11 victory over Wales at Swansea that included 13 tries. The England tries, including five for Sue Day, the Wasps wing, were breathtaking and all masterminded by Emma Mitchell, the new captain and scrum half. Three new players gained first caps and Emily Feltham, the wing, scored tries with her first two touches.

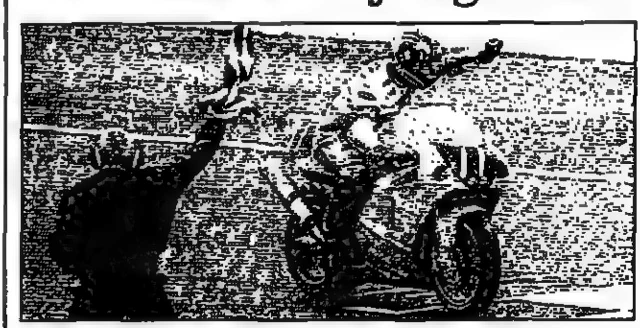
Woods laments defeat

■ **ICE HOCKEY:** Great Britain blew their chance of taking over the outright lead of pool B in the world championships in Denmark yesterday after a 3-2 defeat by Germany in Odense. Peter Woods, the Great Britain coach, felt his side should have come away with a a point to remain unbeaten after opening with wins over Slovenia and Kazakhstan. He said: "We certainly played well enough to have drawn."

Spacey inspires Arsenal

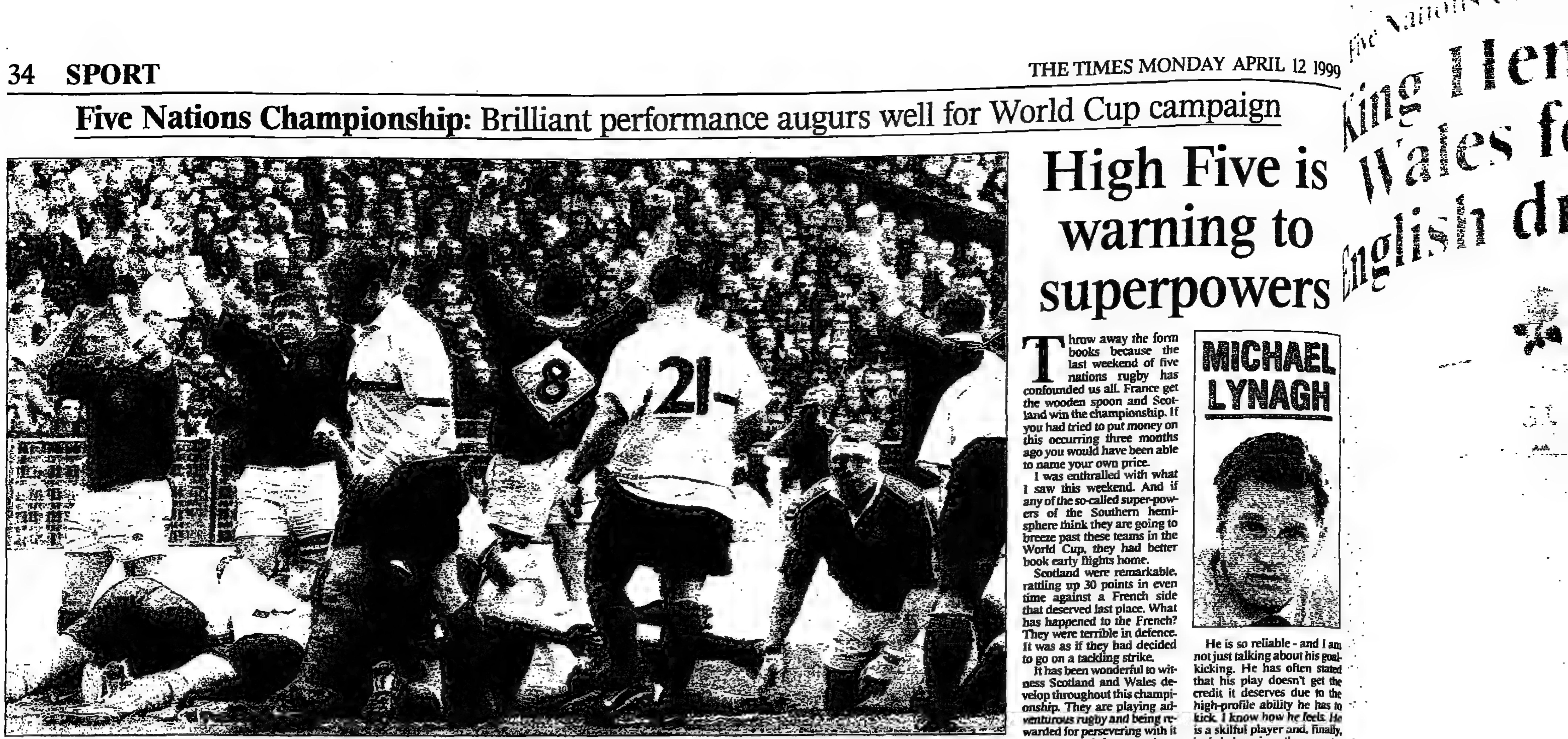
■ **FOOTBALL:** Arsenal and Croydon, the joint leaders of the Premier League, secured home victories yesterday. Marieanne Spacey scored a hat-trick and Faye White added two in Arsenal's 6-0 thrashing of Bradford City. Croydon, who have a match in hand with three remaining, had to rely on a second-half winner from Carmaine Walker to see off Everton 1-0.

Kawasaki's flying start



■ **MOTOR CYCLING:** The Kawasaki factory team, comprising Bertrand Sebileau, pictured above, of France, and Steve Hislop and Chris Walker, the British riders, completed a convincing victory in the Le Mans 24-hour race, the first leg of the world endurance championships. They finished ahead of two Suzuki teams: Dobe, Van den Bossche and Paillot, the French trio, and Rymer, d'Orgeix and Whitham, a Franco-British combination.

Five Nations Championship: Brilliant performance augurs well for World Cup campaign


Scotland players raise their arms in celebration after the final whistle heralded victory and the highest score by a Scottish team against France. Photograph: Charles Platiau/Reuters

Resurgent Scots look forward to new era



FROM MARK SOUSTER IN PARIS

AS the Five Nations champions, Scotland can look forward to a future as bright as the orange shirts that constitute their gaudy change strip. By the time the World Cup comes around, and a full complement reports for duty, who knows what might be achievable. South Africa, who are in their pool, will have taken note. After their highest score against France, the superlatives rained down on a Scotland team that some are hailing as the best of all time. Premature, perhaps, but they have a legion of new admirers.

Unlike its predecessors, what this team possesses is a talented three-quarter line and attacking ability that has set the benchmark in the championship, for which Scotland were 100-1 outsiders before hostilities began in February. Yet three wins out of four, an average of 30 points and four tries per match cannot be argued with. They came to Paris confident of victory and executed their game-plan with aplomb. It would not have been an injustice if they had scored 50 points.

Previous Scotland sides had gifted individuals, but not the overall swagger with which their latter-day counterparts go about their business. In 1990, for instance, Scotland ground their way to success. Bill McLaren, who has witnessed fluctuating fortunes for Scotland for more than half a century, believes the Scots are on the verge of something special. "They are as good a Scotland side as I have seen, including 1984 and 1990. And it can only get better."

One may question French commitment, yet their starting three-quarter line was the same one that shut the door on England at Twickenham. One had to rub one's eyes in disbelief at the eight-try spectacle that unfolded in a bewildering first 28 minutes. After Ntamack has scored his ninth Five Nations try, after a break by Thomas Castaignede that resulted in the injury that forced him to retire hurt after only two minutes, Scotland retaliated with venom.

Within five minutes Scotland had scored three times: Martin Leslie was first, after Logan's initial break and Tait's inside pass. From the restart Metcalfe countered 60 metres, Ntamack just got back, but with a huge overlap on the right Tait trotted over. Four minutes later and Scotland were out of sight. Townsend darted from a scrum and became only the fifth player to score tries in each round of the Five Nations. Suddenly, Scotland were 21-5 ahead.

Generally, France failed to read the lines of attack, the simple inside passes that set Grimes or either of the Leslies galloping into space, with Townsend looping in support and Tait waiting to finish the approach work. Scotland's angles of running, the ability to move the ball out of the tackle and keep it alive, were exemplary. In many instances, the catalyst from deep was Glenn Metcalfe, enjoying his best match for his adopted country. He made Tait's second try, which again stretched Scotland's advantage after Juillet had driven over, almost scored himself when just failing to outpace Ntamack, and then threw away a try for Tait by delaying his pass a second.

France were not helped by the loss of Castaignede, who is expected to be out for two months, and Carbonneau, about whom the prognosis is more bleak. Pierre Villepreux, the assistant coach, talked about injuries that had deprived France, but there was no excuse for a pitiful lack of spirit. For their part, Scotland can point to the absence of Tom Smith, Eric Peters, Doddie Weir, Bryan Redpath and Duncan Hodge at various stages this year. Villepreux also tried to make light of a first season without a championship home victory since 1957. He suggested that the players will "cancel this Five Nations and prepare for the World Cup. This was a bad moment for French rugby, but only a moment."

Dominici's try and Aucagne's penalty goal left France trailing 33-22 at half-time. Their forwards were starting to rumble and one wondered whether France could turn it around. Perhaps, if Ntamack had not been held back by Tait when about to take Domiinci's scoring pass, things might have been different in a second-half that was no less compelling for the scoring of only three points from Logan's penalty.

To be critical, Scotland then played a percentage game, forsaking the style that had served them well. Poor kicking by Armstrong and Townsend put Scotland under pressure, but they held firm and denied France a single second-half point. Gary Armstrong, the captain, said: "We are a good team building for the World Cup. We ripped them to shreds." And how.

Minute	FIRST HALF	Score	Minute		Score
2	Try: Ntamack	[illegible]	25	Try: M Leslie Con: Logan	[illegible]
8	Try: M Leslie Con: Logan	[illegible]	27	Try: Dominici Con: Aucagne	[illegible]
10	Try: Tait Con: Logan	[illegible]	40	Pen: Combe	[illegible]
13	Try: Townsend Con: Logan	[illegible]		SECOND HALF	Score
20	Try: Juillet Con: Aucagne	[illegible]	51	Pen: Logan	[illegible]
22	Try: Tait	[illegible]			

SCORERS:
France: Try: Ntamack, Juillet, Dominici Conversion: Aucagne 2 Penalty goal: Combe
Scotland: Try: Tait 2, M Leslie 2, Townsend Conversion: Logan 4 Penalty goal: Logan

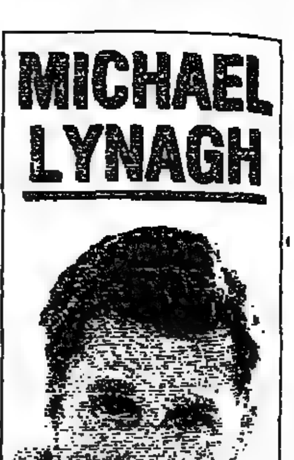
FRANCE: E Ntamack (Toulouse), X Garbajosa (Toulouse), P Giordani (Dax, rep: T Lombard, Stade Francais 62), F Combe (Stade Francais), C Dominici (Stade Francais), T Castaignede (Castres, rep: D Aucagne, Pau 2), P Carbonneau (Brive, rep: C Laussucq, Stade Francais, 39), C Califano (Toulouse rep: S Marconnet, Stade Francais 56), R Ibanez (Perpignan), F Tournaire (Toulouse), O Brouzet (Begles-Bordeaux), T Cleda (rep: D Auradou 56), R Castel, (Beziers, rep: P Benetton, Agen 56), C Labit, C Juillet.

SCOTLAND: G H Metcalfe (Glasgow Caledonians), C A Murray (Edinburgh Reivers), A V Tait (Edinburgh Reivers), J A Leslie (Glasgow Caledonians), K M Logan (Wasps), G P J Townsend (Brive), G Armstrong (Newcastle), D I W Hilton (Bath, rep: G Graham, Newcastle Falcons, 66), G C Bulloch (Glasgow Caledonians), S Murray (Bedford, rep: A Reed, Wasps 79), S B Grimes (Glasgow Caledonians), A C Pountney (Northampton, rep: P Walton, Newcastle 67), S Reid (Leeds Tykes).

Referee: C Thomas (Wales)

High Five is warning to superpowers

MICHAEL LYNAGH



Throw away the form books because the last weekend of five nations rugby has confounded us all. France get the wooden spoon and Scotland win the championship. If you had tried to put money on this occurring three months ago you would have been able to name your own price.

I was enthralled with what I saw this weekend. And if any of the so-called super-powers of the Southern hemisphere think they are going to breeze past these teams in the World Cup, they had better book early flights home.

Scotland were remarkable, rattling up 30 points in even time against a French side that deserved last place. What has happened to the French? They were terrible in defence. It was as if they had decided to go on a tackling strike.

It has been wonderful to witness Scotland and Wales develop throughout this championship. They are playing adventurous rugby and being rewarded for persevering with it even though it has cost them important lessons.

The coaches, Jim Telfer and Graham Henry, have instilled the confidence and joy which so obviously comes from playing this sort of game. They deserve a lot of the credit for what has been a tremendous championship, as their teams have been involved in all the most exciting contests.

England must be a shattered unit after yesterday's defeat. They were very solid throughout without being great. Although it was probably their most adventurous outing in the tournament they still failed to finish the job after creating the foundation to do so. Their inability to turn pressure, possession and territory into points has been a problem for some time and they have finally paid the price.

> 'Jenkins should get the credit he richly deserves'

The English defence continually disrupted the Welsh into error. However, the pack as a whole were matched by a determined Welsh eight, surprisingly in the scrum.

Behind the Welsh forwards was Neil Jenkins. What a day he had! He kicked everything, including the injury time, match-winning conversion, but it wasn't just this that was so impressive. His reading of the play, passing, tackling and covering was a joy to watch. He really has come of age as a fly half. There may be more flamboyant No.10s, but there would not be too many coaches who would prefer someone else at fly half.

He is so reliable - and I am not just talking about his goal-kicking. He has often stated that his play doesn't get the credit it deserves due to the high-profile ability he has to kick. I know how he feels. He is a skilful player and, finally, he is being given the opportunity to demonstrate this.

So where does this leave the World Cup? France have to get their players fit so they can put their best outfit on the pitch, otherwise it could be embarrassing. Their coaching also has to be assessed. Their obsession with attacking the short side does not work, as it is so easy to defend. Sometimes it is not the players' fault, although the way they tackled on Saturday it was clear their hearts were not in it.

Ireland were unlucky throughout. They have to come up with some ideas of how to create tries other than the good old Garryowen. They were a big improvement on last year but they must become more creative and consistent.

Wales were the team to watch. They played attacking, well-thought out rugby using all the skills. If they continue to play like this they will be handful for any team. Scotland were the big surprise. Great backs, who combined well with tough, uncompromising forwards in the typical Scottish tradition with some new modern skills thrown in.

England need to find the recipe of winning not only through outstanding defence but also with offence. For all their domination on the pitch, they didn't thrill or reflect this domination where it counts – on the scoreboard. Fine, but sometimes you need to take chances and with it comes the glory. Just ask Wales.

Dictator who rules by consensus

David Hands reports on the Scotland coach's decision to take a back seat


Telfer: change of style

Jim Telfer was back home in Galashiels yesterday. He had joked about digging his garden but, rather than turning some old sods, he was watching the denouement of the Five Nations Championship from Wembley.

There have been times when Telfer has been regarded as a bit of an old sod himself. But even when players reeled off the training field, cursing his name, there has never been less than total respect for what he has done for Scotland, as player, captain, coach, director of rugby. At 59, Telfer says it is time to move on, to hang up the tracksuit — others are not so sure.

When the remarkable match in Paris was over and Scotland sat proudly on top of the table, John Rutherford said that he, Hugh Campbell and the players had asked Telfer to stay on as head coach. This was through no feeling of inexperience or inadequacy — Rutherford was an outstanding player and is becoming a fine coach, preparing Scotland's backs while Campbell looks after the forwards — but there is that intangible relationship between the trio that they do not want to let go.

Not that Scotland have done with Telfer yet. He reverts to his role as director of rugby for the Scottish Rugby Union in November, when the World Cup is over, but Saturday marked the termination of a 34-year association with the Five Nations. It began, neatly enough, against France in 1964, when Scotland shared the championship with Wales — an accomplishment that eluded them for the remaining six years of Telfer's career as an international.

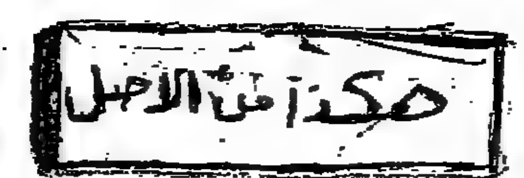
Telfer's talent as a back-row forward was enough to take him on two British Isles tours, but the former rector of Hawick High School's global recognition has come as a coach — to Scotland and, in 1983 and 1997, to the Lions. In that role his sheer intensity frightened people; he bludgeoned players into accepting his diktat, but even amid a torrent of words, the technical accomplishment and analysis came through. When he spoke on Saturday of the way Scottish moves came to fruition, there was a sense of frustration that France's defence had not been more impenetrable, so high are Telfer's standards.

"Jim has changed since I was a player," Rutherford said. "He realises he is dealing with professional players and puts far more onus on them to make decisions. When I played, our club rugby was so bad that he had to lift players to international level by sheer force of personality." It did not leave much room for softer emotions and the most over-worked adjective in the lexicon for the coach was "dour".

But there has always been a dry humour to Telfer to alleviate the harsh demands he has always made of players, and even he could scarcely shift the smile that played across his features on Saturday. This was a Scotland side roundly written off by all but themselves before Christmas but which, given better goalkicking against England at Twickenham, might have won the grand slam.

"I never look at a team and think how good or how bad they are," Telfer said. "You just keep working away with what you've got." In that respect, this 1999 squad will live long in his memory. Few Scotland teams have attacked with the panache shown this season, although none will displace the 1984 grand slam-winning team from premier place in Telfer's affections. Then he was the sole coach and Scotland had not slammed anyone for 59 years.

"I take far more notice now of what players say, we discuss everything," Telfer said. "The players agreed that we needed to target three players — Castaignede, Carbonneau and Ntamack. There was nothing left for me to add. I'm a consensus man now."



Five Nations Championship: Gibbs's injury-time try produces pulsating finish

King Henry of Wales foils English dreams



By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THEY were calling Graham Henry the great redeemer before this international season began. Maybe the age of miracles is still here after Wales, against all but their own expectations, concluded their temporary tenancy of Wembley yesterday with a victory so dramatic that few could have believed it, even though they were among the 78,000 to witness it.

Ninety seconds of injury time had already been played when Chris Wyatt, a giant in the Wales lineout, tapped down one final ball and Scott Quinnell embarked on an arcing run into midfield. Scott Gibbs hit his No 8's pass hard *and straight, the power of his* run reminiscent of his bullocking displays for the British Isles in South Africa two years ago; it carried him past four flailing England defenders and over the line for a try that brought his side within one point of their opponents.

Neil Jenkins had still to kick the conversion but the one certainty of a sunlit afternoon was that the Pontypridd fly half would not miss. Nor did he. Wales led for the only time in the match and England's hopes of the grand slam and *the Five Nations Champion*ship drifted away, roared into oblivion by thousands of exultant Welsh throats.

England, *indeed, had* cut their own throats. Three tries in the first half had given them a 25-18 interval lead, Wales *staying in the match only* through Jenkins's immaculate goalkicking. But they failed to achieve any degree of superiority among the forwards and made mistakes under pressure that cost them the match.

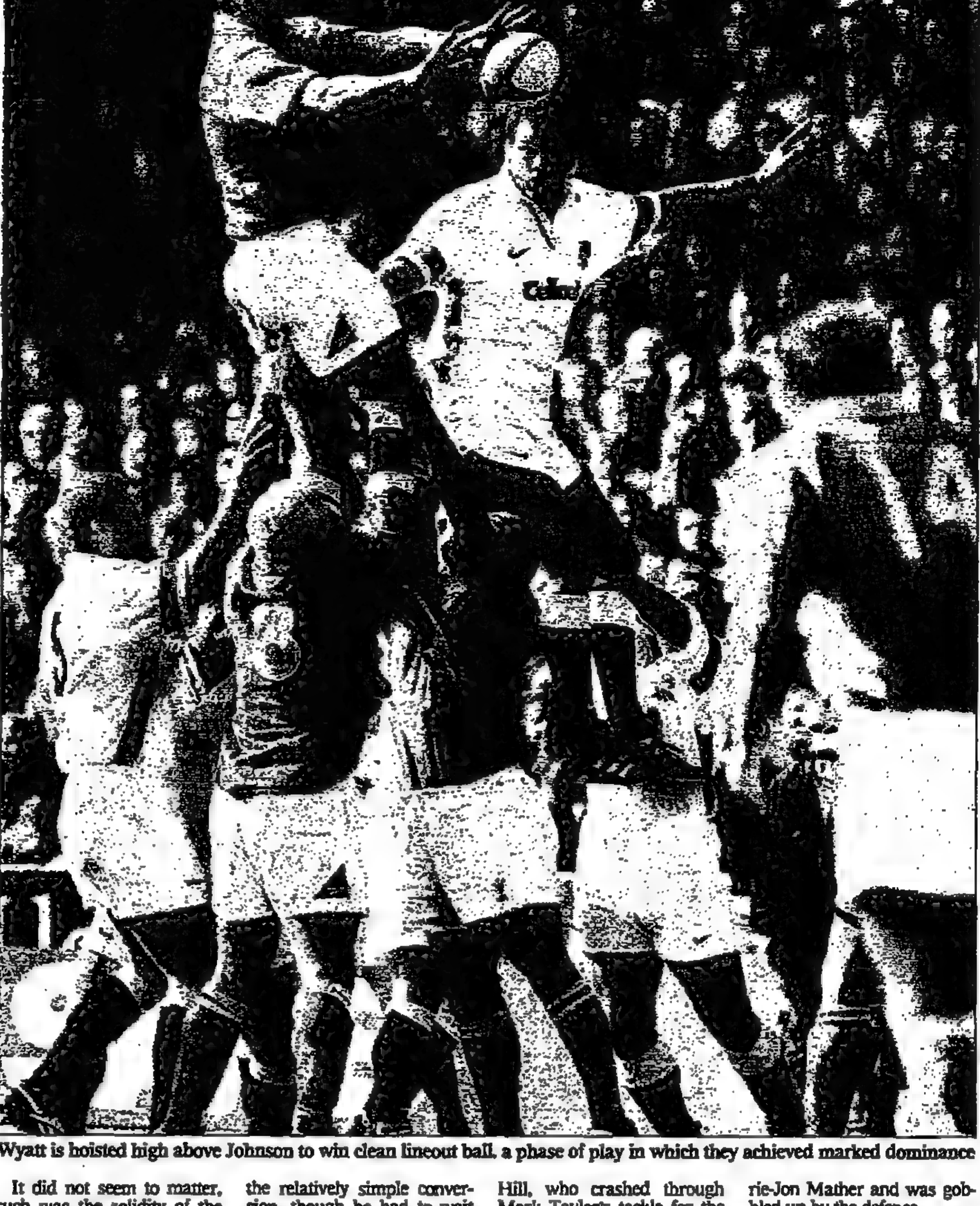
The first was when Lawrence Dallaglio elected to kick into the corner with seven minutes remaining, rather than give Jonny Wilkinson a kick at goal from 36 metres. Had *Wilkinson kicked* the goal, England would have been nine points clear but the youngster did not have the chance. Neil Back had earlier knocked on in his own 22 under no pressure, paving the way for Wales's first try; and Tim Rodber was judged to have shoulder-charged Colin Charvis in a dangerous manner, conceding the territory from which Wales scored.

Yet who would deny them their triumph? Henry, not quite walking on water as he fought his way through the hordes, has turned them into a superbly competitive team with a furious belief in themselves. Even when they conceded a series of scrums through knock-ons and turnovers, they never faltered in the pursuit of Henry's game-plan — to play at pace, to pull England about *the field and try to crack the* defensive white wall.

Howarth's try at the start of the second half proved they could cross the England line and brought them level. That Wilkinson's third and fourth penalties nudged England ahead again gave England no right to assume they had done enough; in fact, so narrow an advantage seemed to send England back into their shells *and tied them into an inaccu*rate kicking game.

It was all so different from the start of an absorbing game played, *despite the yellows* cards awarded to Jason Leonard and Rodber, in a splendid spirit. Within three minutes England had shredded the Wales defence. Mike Catt looped wide to create the space for Matt Perry, whose diagonal run beat Brett Sinkinson and Charvis, and launched Dan Luger on a 25-metre run to the posts.

However, Jenkins's goalkicking never allowed England to stretch away but more important was the parity Wales achieved in the set-pieces. *Where England might* have squeezed them out, they found themselves rebounding on Welsh buffers and, curiously, there was little contest for the ball at the lineout, even though Wales used only two targets, Wyatt and the younger Quinnell.


GILL ALLEN

Wyatt is hoisted high above Johnson to win clean lineout ball, a phase of play in which they achieved marked dominance

It did not seem to matter, such was the solidity of the England defence, and the second quarter was no more than a minute old when they scored their second try. Rodber and Richard Cockerill exchanged *passes at the lineout, Wilkin*son carried play into the shadow of the Welsh posts and Steve Hanley, winning his first cap at 19, came intelligently onto Catt's pass to score, his leap to the skies an expression of youthful pleasure.

Wilkinson, though, missed the relatively simple conversion, though he had to wait another hour before discovering how costly such misses can be. Back, though, should have known better than to concede ten metres for dissent, since it *brought Jenkins within range* of the posts, his penalty drawing Wales level.

Yet it was a subdued Wales who trooped off at half-time. Thomas and Howarth, running back to collect Matt Dawson's deft chip, collided and the ball ran free for Richard Hill, who crashed through Mark Taylor's tackle for the try.

Whatever Henry said at the interval, Wales should bottle it for export. Back's knock-on conceded the scrum from *which Jenkins dispatched* so accurate a pass that it beat three defenders and gave Howarth space to score. Then the nerves kicked in. Twice England seemed to have broken clear, only for their own mistakes to haunt them, notably when Luger ignored Barrie-Jon Mather and was gobbled up by the defence.

The longer England remained within touching distance, the greater the chance that Wales would snatch a wonderful win. That they had *to wait until injury time, and* then endure another three minutes during which Catt screwed an attempted dropped goal wide, simply added to the explosion of relief and glee when André Watson's whistle signalled the end of a magnificent contest.

HOW THE PLAY UNFOLDED AT WEMBLEY

Minute	FIRST HALF	Score	Minute		Score
3	Try: Luger Con: Wilkinson	[illegible]	29	Pen: Jenkins	[illegible]
5	Pen: Jenkins	[illegible]	36	Pen: Wilkinson	[illegible]
12	Pen: Jenkins	[illegible]	39	Try: Hill Con: Wilkinson	[illegible]
15	Pen: Wilkinson	[illegible]	40	Pen: Jenkins	[illegible]
				SECOND HALF	Score
19	Pen: Jenkins	[illegible]	42	Try: Howarth Con: Jenkins	[illegible]
21	Try: Hanley	[illegible]	46	Pen: Wilkinson	[illegible]
26	Pen: Jenkins	[illegible]	55	Pen: Wilkinson	25-31
			82	Try: Gibbs Con: Jenkins	32-31

SCORERS:
Wales: Tries: Howarth, Gibbs
Conversions: Jenkins 2 Penalty goals: Jenkins 6
England: Tries: Luger, Hanley, Hill.
Conversions: Wilkinson 2 Penalty goals: Wilkinson 4

WALES: S P Howarth (Sale); G Thomas (Cardiff; rep: N J Walne, Richmond, 64), M Taylor (Swansea), I S Gibbs (Swansea), D R James (Pontypridd); N R Jenkins (Pontypridd), R Howley (Cardiff, captain); P J D Rogers (London Irish; rep: A L P Lewis, Cardiff, 69), G R Jenkins (Swansea), B R Evans (Swansea; rep: D Young, Cardiff, 69), J C Quinnell (Richmond), C P Wyatt (Llanelli), C L Charvis (Swansea), B D Sinkinson (Neath), L S Quinnell (Llanelli)

ENGLAND: M B Perry (Bath); D D Luger (Harlequins), J P Wilkinson (Newcastle), B-J Mather (Sale), S M Hanley (Sale); M J Catt (Bath), M J S Dawson (Northampton); J Leonard (Harlequins), R Cockerill (Leicester), D J Garforth (Leicester; rep: V E Ubogu, Bath, 69), M O Johnson (Leicester), T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army), R A Hill (Saracens), N A Back (Leicester), L B N Dallaglio (Wasps, captain).

Referee: A Watson (South Africa)

Poor decision proves crucial

Gerald Davies says

England should have put the match beyond Wales

In what has been an extraordinary season, when they have *kept their followers on tenter*hooks against France, frustrated them against Scotland and Ireland, given cause for celebration only to have it taken away in the final breath against South Africa, the Wales team still refused to let them feel at ease. There was one more agonising moment left in the final match of the season.

It was left to Neil Jenkins, whose temperament needed to have been of made of steel, to put those fluttering hearts to rest. His conversion of Scott Gibbs's try in the second minute of injury time gave Wales a victory that had seemed well beyond their reach. That the game should have arrived at such a climax and that Wales denied England their grand slam was, in large measure, England's own doing.

They will reflect that from the moment they scored the opening try after only two minutes, and the many other opportunities that came they way, that *they failed to put the* contest beyond Wales. The England dressing-room would have been a forlorn place yesterday evening.

There can be nothing worse for a team than, with so little time to spare, not to have the opportunity to regain a lead that had been so convincingly theirs from the start. At no time did they relinquish the lead except when it mattered most. The England players sank to their knees behind the posts knowing that the chance had gone.

For 80 minutes and more they led the charge and yet it came ultimately to nought. In the midst of that bewilderment they will cast their minds back to the 76th minute. England were given a penalty when the score stood at 25-31, but Dallaglio and Wilkinson chose to ignore the kick that would have put England more than two scores in front of their opponents and sealed the contest. Instead, they kicked to the corner for a lineout and left Wales with *a glimmer* of hope that Gibbs took four minutes later.

That this failure was of England's own making will not be lost on Graham Henry, the Wales coach, who has imbued in *his* team a stiff resolve. The perspicacity of the New Zealander has created hope where there was little and renewed a sense of purpose when it all seemed to have seeped away. Other Welsh teams would *surely* have knuckled under England's onslaught.

This time last year Wales had suffered two record defeats against France and England. Later in the summer they lost to South Africa by a margin that was a mere three points short of a century. Now their self-respect has returned and also, I suspect, the respect of others.

Yet, if finally it had been Wales' glorious moment, this was, in truth, England's game. Try as they might, Wales could not break *the discipline* of their opponents' defence, where the collective effort of their powerful back row consumed everything Wales attempted to throw at them.

Whereas Wilkinson, Hanley, Catt, on a couple of occasions, and Luger broke clear of the fragile Welsh defence, the home team man*aged to do so only on the two occa*sions that they scored tries. Otherwise, they fell into the welcoming arms of Hill, Back and Dallaglio, with reinforcements arriving in the shape of the estimable Rodber.

But if the sporadic Welsh attacks were rarely consistent, and liable to mistakes, it was from one of these that victory was ultimately and dramatically achieved, bringing the Five Nations Championship, in its final season, to a memorable close.

Jenkins converts to a great

By Jullian Muscat

THE supreme irony within England's last-gasp defeat by Wales yesterday was that a rare England loss was contrived from a match in which they scored the greater number of tries. Thus it was that the last points scored in the last Five Nations championship match of the old millennium were struck from the boot— not the boot of a trusty England fly half, like Rob Andrew or Paul Grayson, but that of Neil Jenkins, later lauded by Graham Hendy, the Wales coach, as the finest of all kickers.

That is high praise indeed, for Henry has spent many an afternoon witnessing Grant Fox, the New Zealand points accumulator par excellence, kick opponents into submission. "I have never seen a kicking display better than that." Henry said. "If the posts had been two metres apart, instead of ten, Neil Jenkins would *still* have kicked all his points. The team showed a huge amount of character in a close game. If you don't have that, you have got nothing."

Jenkins's haul, a flawless eight from eight, made England suffer for their ill-discipline — particularly in the first half. The Welsh No 10 *had hoped* to concoct a tonic for his grandmother, who has been ill, yet he stepped forward to strike the killer blow without a care in the world.

"I didn't think about a great deal," he reflected. "I imagined I was back in the practice paddock, to be honest. I was just thrilled for the team to come through against a very good England side."

Lawrence Dallaglio, the England captain, wore a vaguely haunted look that betrayed his inner turmoil. He stood defiant, *talking*,¼ again, about England's inability to convert numerous half-chances in the second half.

A *similar anchor undermined the* team against France three weeks ago, yet, on this occasion, two new players in Barry-Jon Mather and Steve Hanley had been added to the mix. "I felt we created enough chances to win the game comfortably," Dallaglio said. "We have got to look again at why we're not converting *them. Our ill-discipline* in the first half kept them in the game and I thought that we let them off the hook."

The more expansive game embraced by England, in contrast to their chosen gameplan in previous matches this year, did not pay dividends. Dallaglio appeared impervious *to the detail that running backs* thrive on the familiarity of ball in hand: that half-chances will be squandered until what once seemed like narrow avenues become yawning gaps to those most often exploring *them*.

So it was that Jenkins, for years feeding from scraps behind an ordinary Welsh scrum, missed out the three men outside him to float the immaculate pass by which Shane Howarth, Wales's excellent full back, was able to advance, unchallenged, to the England tryline with the referee's shrill whistle all but lingering from the second-half restart.

More evidently shell-shocked by the reverse was Clive Woodward, the England coach, whose reaction neatly amplified what most English supporters were thinking. "I still won't believe we lost this game when I wake up in the morning," he said, "but we have got to accept it.

"We turned over too much ball, but you sometimes have to take a real kick in the guts before you can go *forward. Perhaps* we need to learn this really harsh lesson before the World Cup [in the autumn]."

As for Scott Gibbs — the Wales centre, who burst through England's tired defence to score the late try that gave Jenkins his match-winning chance — he was typically modest. "We didn't play particularly well and, at times, there were too many mistakes," he said. "England have an awesome defence and it took a long time to break it down."

Ireland take the spoils in no-win situation

Ireland	39
Italy	30

By Karl Johnston

WARREN GATLAND'S comments the previous day about a "no-win situation" proved to be prophetic after Ireland had defeated Italy at Lansdowne Road on Saturday. His team *had beaten* Italy for the first time since 1988, coming from behind to do so, and had managed to avoid what would have been a fourth successive defeat, yet in the Irish Sunday newspapers phrases like "lacklustre performance", "hollow victory" and "meaningless win" abounded.

Certainly nobody will regard this success as a renaissance. The team as a *whole performed very poorly,* especially in the first half, but they did haul back a 12-point deficit, held their nerve when Fabio Roselli's try and Diego Dominguez's conversion left Italy only four points adrift four minutes from full time, and outscored the opposition by five tries to three.

It is true that an Ireland pack that was hailed as the best in the business at the start of the international season has ended up looking more like a collection of Celtic kittens, rather than tigers. And it is equally true that the backs offer little threat, especially in midfield.

The lack of self-belief that affects this Ireland squad was to the fore in the opening few minutes on Saturday, when not only was Dominguez's kick-off knocked on, but the next two restarts were *similarly fumbled. That first* knock-on led to Walter Cristofoletto's try, scored after just 48 seconds.

With the exception of the sometimes over-enthusiastic Trevor Brennan, the odd piece of invention from Dion *O'Cuinneagain and some* useful charges by Peter Clohessy, the Ireland pack failed to dominate, frequently playing second fiddle to the likes of Cristofoletto, Mark Giacheri and the hugely impressive Orazio Arancio. Eric Elwood had a satisfactory return to the international stage and he was directly involved in three of the tries, brilliantly creating one try for Justin Bishop.

After a wayward and error-strewn first half, whatever advice Gatland had given his charges *during* the interval worked in the second period, when some deft touches were evident in the tries scored by Conor O'Shea and Girvan Dempsey. Still, the deficiencies remain, and the composition of the party to tour Australia this summer will be very interesting.

Results 43

SCORERS: **Ireland:** **Tries:** O'Shea 2 (43min, 73), Bishop (11), Dempsey (69), Johns (80). **Conversion:** Elwood. **Penalty goals:** Elwood 4 (17, 40, 49, 61). **Italy:** **Tries:** Cristofoletto (48sec), Baroni (26), Roselli (76) **Conversions:** Dominguez 3. **Dropped goals:** Dominguez 2 (11, 24) **Penalty goal:** Dominguez (21).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Ireland first): 0-7, 5-7, 5-10, 8-10, 8-13, 8-16, 8-23, 11-23 (half-time), 16-23, 19-23, 22-23, 27-23, 34-23, 34-30, 39-30.

IRELAND: C O'Shea (London Irish), J Bishop (London Irish), K Maggs (Bath), R Henderson (Wasps; rep: J Bell, Dungannon, 38min), G Dempsey (Terenure College), E Elwood (Galwegians), C Scally (UCD), J Fitzpatrick (Dungannon), R Nesdale (Newcastle) (rep. K Wood, Harlequins, 55), P Clohessy (Young Munster) (rep: P Wallace, Saracens, 55), P Johns (Saracens), J Davidson (Castres), T Brennan (St Mary's College), D O'Cuinneagain (Sale), V Costello (St Mary's College; rep. A Ward, Ballynahinch, 41).

ITALY: J Pertile (Roma); F Roselli (Roma), G Preo (Milan), L Martin (Bègles-Bordeaux), M Baroni (Padova), D Dominguez (Stade Francais), A Troncon (Treviso), G De Carli (Roma), A Moscardi (Treviso), F Properzi (Treviso), M Giacheri (West Hartlepool; rep: W Visser, Treviso, 7), W Cristofoletto (Treviso; rep: R Rampazzo, Padova, 64), M Giovanelli (Narbonne), S Saviozzi (Treviso), O Arancio (Treviso, rep: S Stocco, Padova, 64)

Referee: F Gillet (France)

Time catches up with a boxing great who refuses to acknowledge the final bell

Hearns trapped in hollow ring

ROB HUGHES

It is the early hours of Sunday in Manchesterand fighters ancient and modern are still doing the business in the Arena. Naseem Hamed, the selfproclaimed Prince of Boxing, has finished his own gruelling struggle to overcome his fellow Yorkshireman, Paul Ingle. Now, he is ringside, watching a legendary competitor who is back answering the saddest call in the profession: fighting beyond his prime.

Asking Thomas "The Hitman" Hearns, once a world champion at six weights, to fight on the undercard to Hamed is like asking Michael Schumacher to drive in support of Eddie Irvine, or asking Zinedine Zidane to do the running for Didier Deschamps.

Hearns is fighting as a professional before a British crowd for the first time, at the age of 40. He wins, over 12 uncombative rounds, against another former champion, the declining Nate Miller, from Philadelphia, but the 18,500 audience has dwindled to next to nothing.

Hamed is ringside, watching but simultaneously conducting business on his mobile, shaking hands, raising the left hand he says was broken in the 11 rounds against Ingle.

What he was witnessing was the inevitable ring of truth, that time waits for no man. In Augusta, Greg Norman has shown the sportsman's compulsion to return to a place, a course, that stripped him of his dignity a couple of years ago. But that was without the dangers that go beyond a man's ego, the dangers that do not need spelling out in connection with prize-fighting. Hearns stepped into the ring in a daffodil yellow gown but there is not much of spring left in him, and little of the primal beast that he once was.

As the millennium approaches, boxing remains a legal exercise and continues to stimulate excitement among men, and women. Jane Couch, the leading woman boxer, was among those at ringside and was on her feet in anticipation when Ingle managed to bloody the nose and threaten, albeit transiently, to dethrone The Prince.

For a moment it appeared that Ingle — who endeared himself to many with his statement "Naz may have his Lamborghinis and Ferraris, but I've got two whippets and a ferret" — could dramatically close the gap. It had been an evident gulf, indeed, for while Ingle had layer upon layer of courage, Hamed seemed, in the early rounds, to be a man gifted with extraordinary feline reflexes and an altogether more rapid transmission from brain to fist.

As that bout wore on, courage, almost to the point of threatening Ingle's own physical wellbeing, came mighty close to equating the accumulation of stinging, hurtful, but less than concussive blows of Hamed.

For this, Ingle pocketed £300,000, and it is not likely that Hearns, prolonging a career long past its bedtime, accepted less. Yet he swears that money is no longer the motive. He is looking for respect, though heaven knows he earned enough for five lifetimes.

As one of nine children to a Detroit mother, Hearns won 155 amateur contests and a further 59 victories in the professional ranks. Using extreme dieting techniques m carbohydrate loading, he shuttled up and down weights covering a range of more than three stones.

Still in his corner, having been there for the remarkable 21 years in which Hearns contested 21 world title bouts, is Emanuel Steward. The same trainer is now involved with Hamed and gave this salutary verdict. "Naseem up to now has gotten away with it with his speed, strength and youth. Now he is beginning to fight younger, tougher guys, and he is needing to change to a more durable way of fighting."

Durability, alas, has now eluded Hearns. After Hamed was made to appear more fallible than he likes to believe, a sadness dwelt on The Hitman. The weight never used to be apparent around his waist; the torso never used to wobble when hit; his punches did not sound like hollow slaps. He is a man groping through memory, and if Steward has any real influence, he should terminate the compulsion now.

The music does not hit the right soul notes any more. A dozen years ago, the only time I witnessed Hearns in his prime in the flesh, Diana Ross and The Three Degrees heralded his entrance. Dennis Andries, a Guyanan out of Hackney, was knocked over five times in ten rounds that were savage, raw, frightening evidence that Hearns, that day fighting for the world light-heavyweight title well above his natural weight, was possibly the most debilitating puncher in the business.

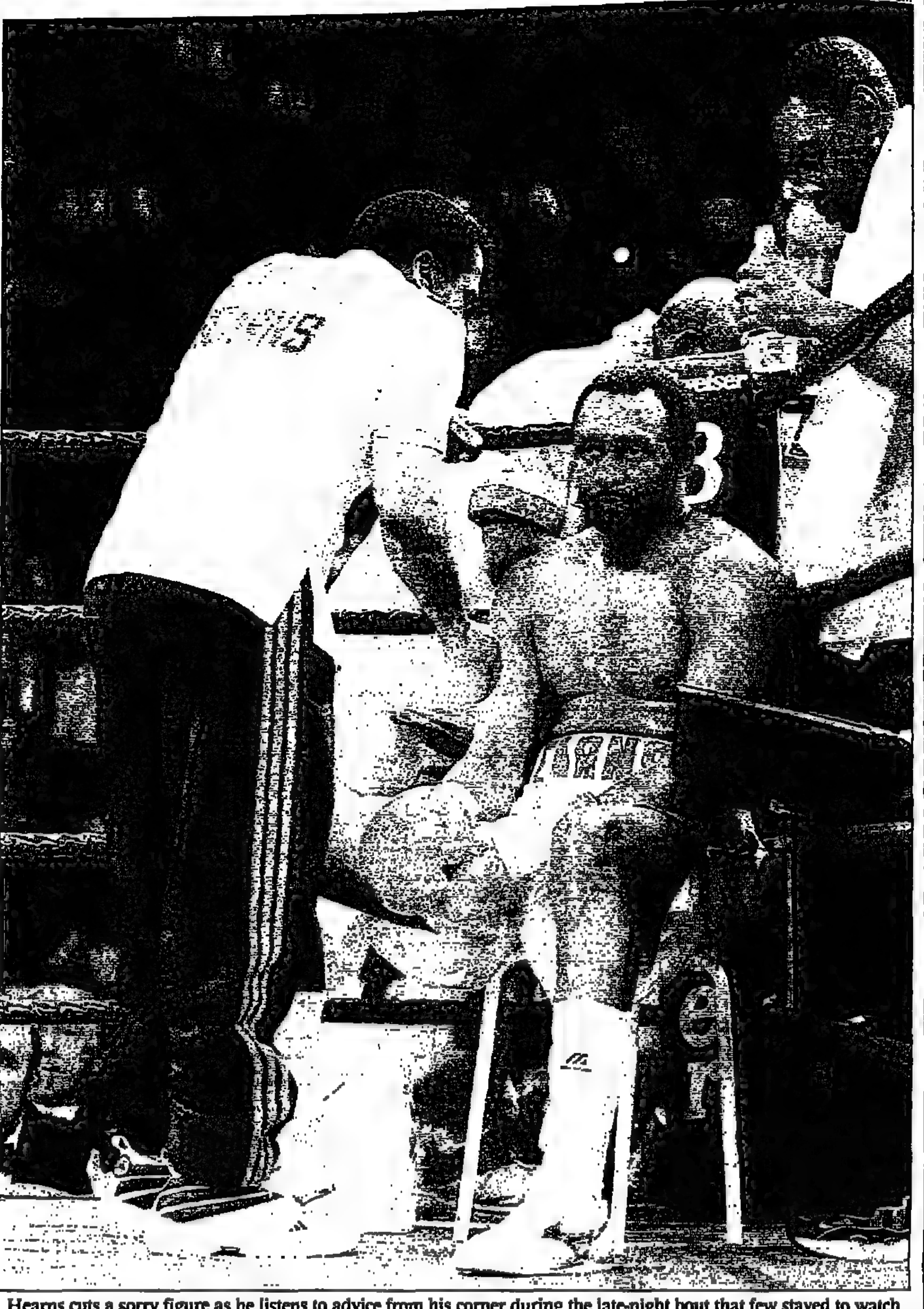
"What a *wicked* fight!" Hamed had said in the Manchester Arena near midnight. He had meant it as a tribute to Ingle, but it had echoes of the past.

Wicked had been the failure of anyone in the corner of Andries to spare their man the damage from his own reluctance to stay down when hit by The Hitman. And wicked, indeed, is the spectacle of that same Hitman now harming himself. "I wouldn't encourage a boy to start a professional boxing career," Hearns had said after the Andries beating. "If I had known what boxing was all about before I started, I don't reckon I'd start." Now he cannot finish.

Hearns left Manchester repeating that he wants respect, wants two defences of his new title, and will then team up with Steward, training youngsters to follow in his footsteps. The cycle, ultimately, is one of sad glory.

'He wore a daffodil yellow gown but there is not much of spring left in him'

JOHN GICHIGI / ALLSPORT



Hearns cuts a sorry figure as he listens to advice from his corner during the late-night bout that few stayed to watch

Fowler can find wider fame by acting out his fantasies



Matt Dickinson suggests an alternative stage for banned striker

What does a footballer do once the Football Association's disciplinary machine has chewed him up, spat him out and packed him off on a long suspension to reflect on his terrible misdeeds? Heads for the silver screen, of course. Could it be that a long and prosperous career in the movies awaits Robbie Fowler?

It is a path taken already by two of the game's worst miscreants. Eric Cantona filmed his debut role in *Le Bonheur est dans Le Pre* while serving a nine-month ban for flattening a Crystal Palace supporter. Last seen mumbling a few hon-he-hons in the Oscar-winning *Elizabeth*, Manchester United's most celebrated bad-boy will shortly be seen in a boxing movie with Mickey Rourke.

Vinnie Jones won more critical praise for his thuggery in *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* than for his suspension-marred efforts for Wimbledon, Leeds United and Wales. "You're the champ," Dustin Hoffman told him at the premiere of the gangster film, and Jones will be back doing what comes naturally again soon. How long before the former hod-carrier turns Oscar winner?

Even if Fowler's acting talents are found not quite to stretch to the big screen, there are always the television studios and the opportunity of a lucrative chat show, as Ian Wright, another of the baddest men on planet football, has shown. Even Gary Lineker went all controversial for the sake of enlivening his television career, as anyone who has seen him cracking blue jokes on *They Think It's All Over* will vouch.

So the solution is obvious for the Anfield striker as he contemplates a longer summer holiday than expected thanks to the FA's overzealous disciplinarians. Get himself a movie agent and wait for the scripts to flood in.

Mike Leigh will surely be able to find a part for a Scouse scally in his next council estate drama. A sacked Liverpool docker, perhaps, who dislikes gays and has to suffer terrible rumours about drugs.

The serious conclusion to it all is that there is money, and a career far beyond football, to be made out of a reputation for controversy, so the Liverpool and England striker should look on the bright side as he contemplates his six-match suspension.

The FA may have attempted to make an example of him, to say that there is no place for his kind of mischief and to make sure every footballer toes the line of good behaviour. The rest of the world takes a rather different view and will await his next goal celebration with eager anticipation.

Supporters love controversy, sponsors pray for it, provided it is kept within reason, and the game should hope for it too. "It is bad for the image of football," say the officials, but there is no more overused or misguided argument. Punch-ups, rows, feuds, spats, arguments and bad jokes about drugs are what football people love, otherwise the press would not write about them with such relish. It is half the fun, maybe more.

'Get an agent and wait for scripts to flood in'

In a few years' time, if not already, Fowler's line-sniffing will be celebrated as a piece of brilliant invidividualism. "I see other footballers out there, and I don't want to name names, but I think they are in danger of becoming robots," Tony Adams said in these pages on Saturday. "You get this guy who suppresses all his feelings because he is fearful of the press and you don't show any emotions."

Someone with only a passing interest in football will hazard a guess that Adams was referring to Alan Shearer, England captain, brilliant goalscorer and expert at sitting on the fence. Shearer's stonewalling is now so mannered that it has almost become a standing joke, yet in the dressing-room, he is known to be a spikey character, as willing to speak his mind and play a practical joke as any. Put on stage in front of hundreds of young supporters last week at the Match of the Day Live show at Birmingham's NEC, Shearer was witty, charming and good-humoured. He even raised a laugh.

For reasons best known to himself, though, he prefers to play to the image that he spends his spare time creosoting the fence. It is a largely wholesome ideal that has earned him millions, but thank goodness there are also footballers who do not mind exposing a little of themselves, sometimes more than they perhaps intended. Sport is about personalities as well as players.

One such is Fowler, who is now paying for it dearly. Of course he deserved punishment for his distasteful taunting of Graeme Le Saux, but the four-match ban and £32,000 fine for his line-snorting goalscoring celebrations suggest that he is being judged for who he is — a troublemaking rebel — rather than what he did, which was stick two fingers up at some Everton fans. Anyone who went out and took cocaine after that is beyond help already.

There is a strong expectation now that Fowler will not appeal against his sentence. The club want him to serve his time immediately, and the FA has made dark noises about increasing his penalty should he dispute it. But fight on, he should. It might not do his immediate football prospects any good, but all the controversy will certainly be good for his movie career.

THIS SPORTING WEEK IN THE TIMES

TOMORROW: Cricket 99 - a free 16-page guide to the season, including the launch of the Fantasy World Cup game.
WEDNESDAY: Are Sunderland and Fulham celebrating the first promotions of the Nationwide League season?
THURSDAY: Who, at last, is heading for Wembley? Reports of the Manchester United-Arsenal FA Cup semi-final replay.
SATURDAY: Danny Baker, Gary Neville and Simon Barnes.

TELEVISION HIGHLIGHT

With 32,000 runners preparing to take to the streets of the capital in the Flora London Marathon next Sunday, *Leviathan* (BBC 2, Wednesday, 7.30pm) takes a timely look at the classic origins of the race. Chris Eubank, the former boxer, is an elegant if idiosyncratic choice of presenter for the feature, which traces the race from the battle of Marathon 2,500 years ago to the modern Olympic Games.



MONDAY MATTERS

LYNNE TRUSS



News of Robbie Fowler's ban and fine are a reminder of life on another planet. I was just getting ready to criticise the rather arrogant Scott McCarron for apparently smirking over Greg Norman's misfortunes on the 12th on Saturday, when an uninvited vision of Fowler pointing his bottom at Graeme Le Saux threw it into a more normal perspective.

You get used to a different kind of *etiquette at a well-run golf event* like the Masters, where patrons, even on practice days, are told to "set pagers to vibrate". Broken bottles are almost never hurled at the players here, you know. Homophobic abuse of an obscene nature is kept to a minimum. And as far as I know a chorus of "Who ate all the pies?" has never been heard in the vicinity of John Daly, despite the arguable justice of the comment.

In fact, spectators here are given pretty strict behavioural guidelines in a special message from "Robert Tyre Jones Jr" (Bobby Jones), reprinted annually in the *Spectator Guide*. First written in April 1967, this message explains that it is "appropriate" to "applaud successful strokes in proportion to difficulty, but excessive demonstrations by a player, or his partisans are not proper because of the possible *effect upon other competitors*."

He goes on: "Most distressing to those who love the game of golf is the applauding or cheering of misplays or misfortunes of a player. Such occurrences have been rare at the Masters but we must eliminate them entirely if our patrons are to continue to merit their reputation as the most knowledgeable and considerate in the world."

Even if you set aside the special etiquette of golf, what happened to the old idea that American fans trample over the sporting sensibilities of the world? Somehow I grew up with the idea that Americans were bad sports, but either I have been in the wrong places, or it simply is not true.

At the National Indoor Arena last week, British Davis Cup fans had no compunction whatever about celebrating every American double fault; at Madison Square Garden last month, when Evander Holyfield fought Lennox Lewis, British fans booed *The Star-Spangled Banner*, and intimidated the locals (no mean feat, to intimidate New York fight fans).

Clean-cut American soccer supporters had various rude awakenings at their World Cup first-round matches last summer, not least a full-scale political rally at Lyons staged by expatriate Iranians that made the faint, collegiate cry of "U. U. USA!" look decidedly small potatoes.

Here at the Masters, the interest in — and support for — international players has been emphatic and heart-warming. Seve Ballesteros is an adopted son; so are Nick Faldo and Bernhard Langer. *Colin Montgomerie* is welcomed warmly, and Ian Woosnam's caddie, Wobbly, met his wife in Augusta, you know.

Ask anybody. The message seems to be that charisma goes rewarded, wherever it comes from. And where there is unfortunately no charisma to speak of (in the case of Olazábal), sympathy for stoicism in adversity is called on to compensate. Adoptive favourites this weekend have been Olazábal and Norman, and you cannot tell me that bad feet and shocking shoulder respectively did not come into that.

Suffering alone is not enough, however. Perhaps deliberately soliciting the sympathy vote — or to make himself sound more interesting, after his record run of consecutive birdies — Steve Pate revealed to *The Augusta Chronicle* on Sunday a whole catalogue of personal misfortunes that make chronic feet sound like a picnic. Car accidents, freak falls on boating trips and a million-to-one knocked-off-bicycle-by-spooked-deer incident have interfered to devastating effect on his career, and it seems that they now speak of Pate and the coyote in the *Roadrunner* cartoons in the same breath. Had the crowd known all this, they might have cheered him all the more. But as it was, they cheered him for his birdie-birdie-birdie-birdie-birdie-birdie-birdie, which was nice.

Oddly, Norman denied he was getting *special treatment from the* fans on Saturday. Standing under a tree outside the clubhouse on Saturday evening, as shadows lengthened across the course, he said it was untrue that he had been singled out; that you could hear them cheering other players on other holes as well.

But if he was fighting shy of being the "sentimental favourite", you cannot blame him. "How do you define a sentimental favourite? Is that because of what happened in 1996, or because I'm old?" he asked, disingenuously, on Friday. As a sportsman, he would obviously prefer to win the Masters not because the event morally owed it to him, but because he had recaptured top form.

The truth is, however, that the two things cannot be disentangled. Every time Norman toughed out, *every time he showed nerve and* resolve, his performance was bound to be assessed entirely in terms of his famous blow-up three years ago. Had he laid those ghosts, or were they thumbing their noses at him yet again?

On Sunday morning, I have to say, we were as taut as piano wire here at Augusta. Monty might win, or Ernie Els (my tip!), or that nice Davis Love III. More than anyone, however, we wanted Norman, because the sight of that poor bloke *rolling on the 15th green in despair* (while managing to keep his hat on) was something we could not bear to see repeated. Like the sight of Robbie Fowler pointing his bottom, *it is an image once seen, never* forgotten.

Norman marches back over the Hogan Bridge to the 12th tee after losing his ball in the Asiatic jasmine

August figures provide real sense of occasion

The weight of history and tradition are handled effortlessly at Augusta, of course, but you can't help wondering how the club will continue to cope in another 50 years, when a bit more history has accrued. By then, you see, the Ike Pond, the Founders Circle, the Nicklaus Plaque and the Hogan Bridge will be jostling for attention with the Norman Bunker, Couples Corner, and the Woods ... er, Wood. Not to mention all those little wayside shrines to Seve in the bushes. Is there room for more tradition in this place, or is it all filled up? That's *my only worry*.

Already, whenever an Augusta National visitor spots a circular break in the perfect grass they rush to take a look at it, assuming it commemorates yet another famous moment in Masters history. And whoever Sprinkler was (Jeff Sprinkler? Bobby Sprinkler?), he must have done a lot of exciting things on this particular golf course.

The best tradition, of course, is the old-time champions teeing-off at 8am on Thursday. This year, with a combined age of about a thousand, Sam Snead, Gene Sarazen and Byron Nelson did the business, and it was excellent, the occasion helped by the sort of morning — with dewy grass and daffodil sky — that Wodehouse describes as "all Nature shouting Fore!". It really felt good to be alive. Signs of



Snead (left), Sarazen and Nelson prepare to tee off on the first day

recent precision mowing were all around, and the scoreboard was pristine, optimistic, expectations were high. Snead, champion in 1949, 1952 and 195, ambled loosely in the early sunshine, in his royal-blue pullover and Bing Crosby hat. Sarazen, the 1935 champion, a tiny, impish figure dressed dapperly in grey plus-fours, made a great entrance by golf-cart, and hopped out when it stopped, a bit like Ike from a jeep.

Then each man took the tee, whacked a *shot* when invited and went in to breakfast, leaving the course to the competitors. And I have to say I was relieved. Being new to Augusta, I'd been feverishly wondering whether the poor old fellas were expected to trudge off down the hill to complete 18 holes, while a hundred younger blokes snapped impatiently at their revered heels. Once I realised it was just a ritual of striking the ball, I could relax. And it was great. What a way to start a tournament. As he took the tee, Snead said: "Oh, I just try to keep up with Gene." (Lots of laughs.) He was then introduced as the man with the best golf swing of all time; at which he said, mock-dolefully, looking at the driver in his hand, "Well, that oughta do it."

One day, of course, an octogenarian Nick Faldo will appear on the identical tee with a cheery wave, and golf fans yet unborn will *assume he was always a free and* easy bloke who liked a laugh. The precision mowing will be the same, likewise the wisteria around the clubhouse, the green-jacketed officials and the wafting smell of that leathery bacon they have in America that is nothing like the proper bacon we have at home. But people will cheer in the same manner and it will be just as lovely, a ceremonial event. Especially when, as in umpteen previous successive years, Seve Ballesteros, that *lovely old jokesmith*, clears his throat ("Ahem! Oh, my apologies!") just as Faldo makes his backswing.

Blooming bushes deny search party

The futile search for Greg Norman's lost ball at the 12th on Saturday afternoon created an interesting scene. Any green-fingered observer who had assumed the azaleas and dogwoods were held in high esteem by the golfers at Augusta was in for a nasty shock as Norman and Lee Janzen, together with caddies and officials, tore urgently into the bushes as if searching *for a bomb. So much for the glorious horti*culture, eh? As they manhandled the Asiatic jasmine, it was like watching someone brutally body-search your maiden aunt: you half-expected the bushes to cry out, "Unhand me, sir!"

Nobody wanted Greg to fall foul of the five-minute rule, yet to see someone at this elevated level lose a ball was highly consoling, not to mention hilarious. As they trampled the pine-straw — digging into the bush, shaking it, and all but pulling it out by the roots — I inwardly cheered on behalf of all who have ever spent two or three hours in the long grass tearing their hair out and yelling "Look, it can't have just *disappeared*."

As he completed his round, after a great comeback on the 12th, where he got a two with his second ball, and the 13th, Norman was still saying: "I'd just like to know what happened to that ball." To which one can only say: Join the club.

Just in passing

I met a woman on Friday who used to have her hair cut by Darren Clarke's wife. Really. On Wednesday I met a man who knew a man who lived next door to Jeff Maggert's caddie. It was that sort of week, if I'm honest. Leaving the golf aside, the Masters was a bombardment of inconsequential details and unanswered questions. Why was Ian Botham sitting outside the clubhouse on Tuesday? Why were so many men either smoking (or fiddling with) big fat cigars? Why was a man trying to sell Beany Babies to the passing traffic beyond the gates? Did he sell any? Even of Maple, the Canadian bear, a rare item?

Personally, I was very touched to see, at a nearby filling station, a large display of drinks tins arranged to spell out "WE MISS JACK" — referring, presumably to the absent Nicklaus. Sadly, I mentioned this affectionate tribute to a colleague, who suggested: "Perhaps he used to buy a lot of petrol." Which rather ruined the effect.

Magic moments make Wyer the envy of riders everywhere

SIMON BARNES

PROGRAMME NOTES

A lot of my enthusiasm for this year's Grand National ended at the last flight in the race before, the Martell Aintree Hurdle, and with a shot that the *Grandstand* cameras never showed. The race was over hurdles, those smaller and flimsier obstacles over which a horse seldom falls. They are, *though, with their* high wooden bar and their tendency to spring back, the worst-designed obstacles in the history of equestrian sports.

Venetia *Williams, a great* admiration of mine, had entered an untried horse called Stretarez in this elite race. This, I thought, was typically audacious. This sort of thing is just not done. But she is a lady who knows what she is about. Alas, the race developed in the way *it was expected*, with a stirring duel between the brilliant Istabraq and the giant French Holly. Stretarez nowhere. Then news came through that he had fallen at the last and had been put down.

At once, the bubbles went out of the day. It was that faint whiff of personal involvement that did it. I could see the merriment of this attempted *coup against tradition*; I know a little of extraordinarily meticulous preparation that goes on in the Williams yard. To run a horse in a jumping race is always a serious matter; and always one with a hint of gaiety about it.

That is why it is always such a blow when a horse is injured or killed. It is the champagne glass dashed from your lips, it is hearing some serious and depressing news in the middle of telling your favourite joke. It is a hard one for television to cope with, too: the clichés don't work. All you can do is put over the facts, leave a moment's pause, and kick on. It is this, *the proximity of* frivolous joy to most serious death, that gives the edge to National Hunt racing. I am *never quite* at ease with it.

Perhaps no one ever is. The Grand National is an almost hysterical occasion: longed for and dreaded. It takes a lot to worry a jump jockey, *but they* feel a terrible mixture of physical terror and stage fright, two things that bring out extreme *performances* in humans and animals.

Trainers and owners who have prepared all year or all their lives for this event, feel that strange *last-minute* dread. They said so again and again during the build-up: I just hope he comes back safe.

The *viewer is* entitled to ask, why enter the horse, then? No one knows the answer. I remember the terrible dread before cross-country events: fear for yourself, fear that you will make *an error* that damages the horse. And you long for someone to come up and say, sorry, it's cancelled.

Of course, you would die from disappointment. And there was Clare Balding in a wonderful velvet coat, doing all she could to convey that air *of excited anticipation* that exists on the very cusp of hysteria.

It is a jumble, the live running of the race; it can't be anything else. Jim McGrath called the litany of names with *élan*, the strongly-fancied Double Thriller falling *at the first and* me looking and listening for the majestic Suny Bay and for the Williams runner, General Wolfe.

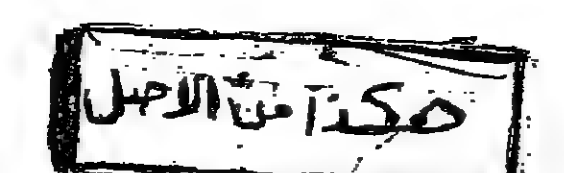
As every year, the pattern finally emerges after Becher's Brook second time round. There was a brief glimpse of some X-certificate mayhem, and then Blue Charm emerged as the day's hero, lobbing along in front with such delightful ease that you could hardly believe the disasters he had left in his wake.

It must be wonderful, then: the terrors tamed, the horse in a rhythm, jumping strongly and nothing left to do — especially on an outsider — but to revel in your luck and your horse. Oh brave old world, that has such creatures in it.

Blue Charm was caught on the run-in, and so the story of the day was the Carberry family and the swinging from the rafters, a great piece of television, destined for much re-running. But those tracking shots of Blue Charm said everything about the good bits of National Hunt racing. I am sure that it was not just me who wished to change places with his jockey, Lorcan Wyer.

I bet many people who have never sat on a horse in their lives felt the same thing: tasting with television's perfect vividness the horse and *rider's mutual* delight in the conquest of deadly danger.

Eudipe was killed after the mayhem at Becher's: General Wolfe got round, so did Suny Bay. Part of me never got over the unseen fall in the hurdle race before; and another part will always envy Wyer and *the long minutes of fulfilment* over the final dozen fences. The hardest thing in the world: and for those two or three minutes, it was easy.



CRICKET

England suffer fresh setback to World Cup hopes

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN SHARJAH

SHARJAH (India won toss): India bt England by nine runs

FOR the third time in five days England slipped to defeat, albeit a narrow one, under the floodlights here yesterday and each successive loss raises more concern a month ahead of the World Cup.

India displayed greater composure under pressure and England are now certain of finishing bottom of the Coca-Cola tournament even if they beat Pakistan tonight.

Much of the game followed the pattern of the previous meeting last Friday which India won by 20 runs. After losing the toss England contained the batsmen for the majority of the innings, only to suffer in the closing stages before losing wickets at the head of their reply.

A target of 240 on another low, slow pitch would not have troubled a side playing at its peak. Confidence is draining rapidly from this squad, however, and none of the top order seemed less at ease than Alec Stewart, the captain. He has now gone 17 one-day internationals without a half-century.

Playing and missing with indecent regularity, he was finally put out of his misery when Srinath won a leg-before decision when Stewart had scored two runs in 21 balls. As events transpired England had every reason to be grateful to Ganguly for dropping Knight at slip with the left-hander on 12.

While Knight recovered to pull and cut audaciously, scoring 50 of the first 70 runs, a succession of partners carried less conviction. Wells, who had replaced Croft, hit Prasad for a straight six only for the bowler to accept a return catch in the same over, and the experiment of using Ealham to swipe early boundaries failed as a misunderstanding with Knight resulted with his being run out.

When, four overs later, Hick fell to alert wicketkeeping by Mongia, stumped down the leg side attempting to sweep Kumble, England were precariously placed at 66 for four, facing elimination from a tournament envisaged optimistically as a vehicle to raise morale ahead of the World Cup which starts on May 14.

A further problem emerged over the weekend when Alan Mullally, one of the few players to finish the recent Carlton and United tournament in Australia with his reputation enhanced, reported a side strain. England have taken the precaution of registering the injury with the International Cricket Council (ICC) in case he fails to respond to treatment.

The 15-man squad has been told that contracts must be signed by April 26. Tim Lamb, the chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board, delivered the terms yesterday when he arrived ahead of an ICC meeting to discuss World Cup issues. Including wages paid by their counties, each player stands to earn around £60,000 by winning in the final on June 20. Lamb said that the terms were not negotiable.

He arrived at the CBFS Stadium as India were beginning to accelerate. That their innings started slowly had much to do with Angus Fraser, the replacement for Mullally. His first spell of eight overs cost 15 runs and figures of one for 24 from ten testified to the virtues of line and length regardless of conditions.

After Gough had bowled Ganguly between bat and pad, Fraser confused Ramesh with a ball that rose a little more sharply and the attempted pull looped towards Wells at wide mid-on. With Kambli, attempting to rebuild his international career after alcohol problems, succumbing to a fine running catch by Hick off Ealham, England might have thought they could restrict India to below 200.



Gough: late blows

However, Jadeja, standing in for the injured Azharuddin as captain, has proved himself an imaginative leader of the side. A decision to promote Srinath realised dividends with the fast bowler striking 28 from 29 balls and Dravid moved through the gears to reach 69 before Fairbrother ran him out with a direct hit.

The final thrust came from Jadeja himself. Seemingly a step ahead of Stewart's bowling changes, he struck seven fours in an unbeaten 74 from 67 balls. After taking three wickets in his only over two days earlier, he had made another enormous contribution.

Thorpe scored the bulk of the runs in a stand of 53, but Jadeja set clever fields to stop Fairbrother generating a rhythm at the crease. A fine delivery by Prasad eventually removed the Lancashire batsman and, two overs later, Austin became his third victim when he was bowled attempting a lusty heave through midwicket.

Thorpe started to look for boundaries rather than nudge singles but with 36 required from the last four overs the element of risk continued to grow. After scoring 79 from 87 balls he went down the wicket to Joshi, missed and was stumped. Gough raised hopes of an improbable win by driving Srinath for six but in the same over Fraser was run out.

Stewart sets off for the pavilion after his latest failure as the India fieldsmen congratulate Srinath, the successful bowler



LINKS

WEBSITE: www.uk.cricket.org
TELEVISION: Sky Sports 2, 12noon, live

SCOREBOARD FROM SHARJAH

INDIA

S Ramesh c Wells b Fraser	12
S C Ganguly b Gough	2
R Dravid run out	63
V G Kambli c Hick b Ealham	23
J Srinath c and b Hick	28
*A Jadeja not out	74
R R Singh c Fairbrother b Gough	18
† N R Mongia not out	11
Extras (lb 2, w 2, nb 4)	8
Total (6 wkts, 50 wkts)	**239**

S B Joshi, A Kumble and B K V Prasad did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-16, 3-61, 4-120, 5-149, 6-207

BOWLING: Gough 10-2-49-2, Fraser 10-3-24-1; Austin 7-0-49-0, Flintoff 8-0-43-0, Ealham 10-0-41-1, Hick 3-0-13-1; Wells 2-0-18-0.

ENGLAND

N V Knight b Kumble	84
*† A J Stewart lbw b Srinath	2
V J Wells c and b Prasad	7
M A Ealham run out	7
G A Hick st Mongia b Kumble	1
G P Thorpe st Mongia b Joshi	79
A Flintoff run out	3
N H Fairbrother b Prasad	16
I D Austin b Prasad	2
D Gough not out	20
A R C Fraser run out	1
Extras (b 1, lb 4, nb 3)	8
Total (48.5 overs)	**230**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-41, 3-55, 4-66, 5-125, 6-131, 7-184, 8-188, 9-219

BOWLING: Srinath 9.5-0-84-1; Prasad 10-2-35-3, Kumble 10-2-28-2; Singh 5-0-25-0; Joshi 9-0-54-1, Ganguly 4-0-17-0; Jadeja 1-0-2-0

Umpires: K T Francis (Sri Lanka) and D B Hair (Australia)

Australia give Bichel one-day chance

ANDY BICHEL was called into Australia's one-day squad to face the West Indies as a last-minute replacement for Adam Dale, the swing bowler, who is in bed with pneumonia.

Bichel received the call just 30 minutes before he was going to fly home after his involvement with the Test squad. Dale, an asthmatic, has been ruled out of at least the first two of the seven one-day matches with West Indies.

Steve Waugh, Shane Warne and Geoff Marsh, who form Australia's selection panel, named a strong batting line-up for the first match of the series, in which Australia bowled out West Indies for 209 in St Vincent yesterday.

West Indies have drafted VivRichards onto their World Cup management team after he proved a secret weapon for them in the recent 2-2 drawn series with Australia. The involvement of the 47-year-old former captain, who will be asked to help out with the batsmen, apparently follows his contribution during the third Test when he visited the home dressing-room many times, talked to the players and motivated them as the West Indies claimed an eventual one-wicket success.

The players welcomed Richards's contribution and asked Pat Rousseau, the president of the West Indies Cricket Board, to talk to the former batting legend about being officially involved in the Cup campaign. After discussing it with his board and the team's management, Rousseau made the invitation which Richards accepted.

Warrington suffer at hands of Wigan walking wounded

Wigan Warriors	24
Warrington Wolves	10

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ST HELENS remain two points clear at the top of the JJB Super League with the only 100 per cent record after Warrington Wolves had their unbeaten run brought to an end in a game of contrasting halves at Central Park yesterday.

It was only after Wigan Warriors had surged 18 points clear in 35 minutes that Warrington offered genuine competitiveness. Two quick strikes after the resumption rattled the home side, who got back on track when the imperious Andy Farrell landed a fourth goal to add to a superb earlier try.

Farrell and Jason Robinson, filling in at half back, were evidence of the injury problems at Wigan. These worsened when Haughton and Johnson were helped off and the side concluded the last ten minutes with 12 players.

"Last year we hardly had any injuries. Now we're picking up a couple a week." John Monie, the Wigan coach, said. With Kris Radlinski forced to sit out his first game for two years, Monie was delighted with the performance at full back of Wes Davies, grandson of Billy Boston, whose full debut contained enough electric bursts to draw the odd parallel with the legendary Wigan wing.

In the first half, Warrington never managed a clean break and Wigan's first two tries were scored from acting half back, the first by Reber and the next by Connolly after the visitors had been penalised for holding down in the tackle.

When in possession, Warrington lacked creativity and their defence was found wanting again as Farrell's dummy prised a gap down the right. With the line 40 metres away, no-one was going to deny the Wigan captain his first try of the season, which he converted from the touchline.

Warrington had shipped too many points to get back on equal terms, but as Lee Briers began to direct operations, Hunte claimed the scrum half's kick to the left corner for their first try. When Briers ran the ball on the last tackle, smart handling worked Roach over on the opposite wing.

Farrell re-asserted Wigan's control after Duffy was caught ball stealing. His one slip was a missed conversion of the final try, after Moore had gone over for the conclusive score.



Andy Farrell: inspired form

SCORERS: Wigan Warriors: Tries: Reber, Connolly, Farrell, Moore. Goals: Farrell (4). Warrington Wolves: Tries: Hunte, Roach. Goal: Briers.

WIGAN WARRIORS: W Davies, P Johnson, G Connolly, L Gilmour, D Moore, A Farrell, J Robinson, N Cowie, M Reber, T Mestrov, M Cassidy, S Haughton, D Betts. Substitutes: B Goldspink, M Smith, R Ball, T O'Connor

WARRINGTON WOLVES: L Penny, J Roach, T Kohe-Love, A Hunte, M Forster; J Duffy, L Briers; M Hilton, D Farrar, D Nutley, S Gilles, I Knott, M Wainwright. Substitutes: G Chambers, S McCurrie, D Busby, D Hanger.

Referee: S Presley (Castleford)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Gregory blue as Reds fade

Salford Reds	17
Castleford Tigers	29

BY A CORRESPONDENT

VULNERABILITY in midfield, where the tackling became increasingly fragile, cost Salford Reds their fifth consecutive JJB Super League defeat at The Willows yesterday, after they had established an 11-point lead after just half an hour. In the end, the superior pace and power of Castleford Tigers decided what was a lively contest.

With only four victories in 23 Super League starts, Andy Gregory, the Salford coach, was understandably disappointed after witnessing such an encouraging start by his side. "My job isn't on the line," he insisted. "I'll be here until the end of the season. If we start winning, then who knows what will happen?"

A crowd of 3,663, little more than half of the number for Salford's two previous home fixtures, were right to be enthused by their side's initial onslaught which, deservedly, brought tries for both Stuart Littler and Neil Baynes, and goals for Steve Blakeley and Carl Briggs.

It was then that Danie Orr, the Castleford half back, began to stamp his authority on the proceedings. His scorching break and long pass gave Michael Eagar his sixth try in three games and, just before the break, he initiated a superb touchline move involving Francis Maloney and Adrian Vowles before Richard Gay ripped past Paul Carige to score.

Brad Davis sent Maloney hurtling in under the posts soon after the break. Orr then kicked his third goal before adding a penalty and, although Joe Faimalo collected Salford's third try in a rare breakout, Castleford pulled even further away with a superb score, created by Orr for Jason Flowers. Further goals from Orr and Ian Tonks added to the visiting team's tally.

With four victories from five games, Castleford are now enjoying their best ever Super League start. Much harder tests await them, however, and they are conscious that they will have to play better than ever to sustain their good run of form.

SCORERS: Salford: Tries: Littler, Baynes, Faimalo. Goals: Blakeley (2). Dropped goal: Briggs.
Castleford: Tries: Eagar, Gay, Maloney, Flowers. Goals: Orr (4), Tonks (2). Dropped goal: Orr.

SALFORD REDS: P Carige; B Thompson, S Littler, G Casey, S Martin, S Blakeley, C Briggs, P Southern, M Lee, N Baynes, H Smith, D Bradbury, P Highton. Substitutes: M Crompton, C Morley, J Faimalo, C Makin.

CASTLEFORD TIGERS: J Flowers, R Gay, M Eagar, F Maloney, D Rogers, D Orr, B Davis, D Sampson, A Raper, N Sykes, L Harland, G Tallec, A Vowles. Substitutes: I Tonks, J Wells, A Hill, D Ellison

Referee: K Kirkpatrick (Warrington)

Eagles prey on Rhinos

Sheffield Eagles	22
Leeds Rhinos	16

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A REMARKABLE second-half fight back gave Sheffield Eagles a rare JJB Super League victory over Leeds Rhinos in a thrilling encounter at the Don Valley Stadium yesterday. A year after being denied by the odd point in 47 on home soil, Sheffield gained sweet revenge by out-scoring the Silk Cut Challenge Cup finalists by four tries to two, continuing their steady improvement.

Leeds, who clearly have the Wembley final on their minds, looked to be cruising to a comfortable win when they led 14-4 at half-time, but Sheffield, the Challenge Cup holders, slowly, but surely, hauled themselves back into a match they had seemed ready to let slip.

Led by the guile of their full back, Dave Watson — who more than made amends for his first-half sin-binning — together with the power and persistence of Johnny Lawless, the hooker, and Dale Laughton, the prop, Sheffield clawed their way back. Tries by Rod Doyle and Simon Baldwin, plus two goals by Mark Aston, had tied the scores at 16-16 after 70 minutes. Leeds had been restricted to a solitary second-half penalty by Iestyn Harris.

However, with just seven minutes remaining, Sheffield snatched the lead for the first time when Aston slotted a penalty, after Adrian Morley had been sin-binned for obstruction, and, in the closing stages, Geoff Hardy crashed through for the try that brought the biggest crowd at the Don Valley Stadium this season to its feet.

Leeds, who have now lost three of their past five Super League matches, had appeared to be in almost total control before the interval as they ripped Sheffield's defence to shreds with wave upon wave of effective attack.

Tries by Paul Sterling and Morley, who finished off a scintillating handling move involving six of his colleagues, plus three goals by Harris, edged Leeds ahead, but Doyle's opening try, on 33 minutes, set the scene for the rousing renaissance as Sheffield secured their third victory in the space of just nine days.

SCORERS: Sheffield: Tries: Doyle (2), Baldwin, Hardy. Goals: Aston (3)
Leeds: Tries: Morley, Sterling. Goals: Harris (4).

SHEFFIELD EAGLES: D Watson, K Lovell, D Powell, K Senior, B Sodje, J Hardy, M Aston, D Laughton, J Lawless, D Shaw, S Baldwin, D Turner, R Doyle. Substitutes: C Thorman, R Wright, W Sovatabua, M Jackson

LEEDS RHINOS: M St Hilaire; L Rivett, M Golden, B Godden, F Cummins, I Harris, D Lawford, M Masella, T Newton, D Fleary, A Morley, A Farrell, M Glanville. Substitutes: P Sterling, K Senfield, L Jackson, D Ward.

Referee: Stuart Cummings (Widnes)

Goulding proves inspiration to end Giants' losing streak

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

BOBBIE GOULDING gave the long-suffering Huddersfield Giants fans something to shout about as he inspired his side to a 26-12 victory over fellow JJB Super League strugglers Hull Sharks.

Goulding was outstanding as he almost single-handedly ended the Giants' miserable 17-game Super League losing streak. He was the main difference between two bad sides in an error-strewn match at the McAlpine Stadium. The scrum half picked up the ball 40 metres from the line in the seventeenth minute and twisted past two men before scoring under the posts.

Hull responded when Gary Lester capitalised on poor defending to level the scores three minutes later but Basil Richards and Andy Cheetham put Huddersfield further ahead before the interval. Robert Roberts gave Hull a brief glimmer of hope as he barged over to make it 18-12 at half-time.

Danny Russell, the Huddersfield captain, scored after the break and after 57 minutes Goulding completed the scoring with his fifth goal from seven attempts.

Shaun McRae, the Gateshead Thunder coach, is pleased with the improvement shown by his Super League newcomers after their second home victory, a 22-14 defeat of Halifax Blue Sox at Gateshead International Stadium on Saturday.

"We're better defensively than we showed in the games against Leeds and St Helens," McRae said. "I've been happy with our performances and we've made a good start at home, but it's vital we starting picking up points away."

The margin flattered Halifax, who are nothing like the side that finished third last year. Their third defeat of the season was confirmed when Willie Peters, the livewire Gateshead scrum half, intercepted a pass by Graham Holroyd and won a 50-metre sprint to the line.

Gateshead's all-Australian outfit showed far greater pace and creativity as they raced ahead with tries by Kerrod Walters, their captain, and Craig Simon. Gavin Clinch and Darryl Cardiss responded for Halifax, but the Thunder took control again when Ben Sammut followed up a kick by Will Robinson.

"Gateshead are a confident team," John Pendlebury, the Halifax coach, said. "They play percentage football and defend with enthusiasm, so they are very hard to break down."

RACING: CLASSIC BETTING CHANGED AFTER GODOLPHIN'S TRIALS IN DUBAI

Island Sands impresses

By Chris McGrath

PRECISELY as Paul Carberry was taking the National Hunt season to an exuberant climax, swinging from the rafters in the winner's enclosure at Aintree, thousands of miles away a rather more discreet drama was serving to ignite the new Flat season. In the desert evening of Dubai on Saturday, Godolphin took the gloves off its most promising three-year-olds in an attempt to establish a pecking order for the European classics.

Two trials over a mile, for colts and fillies respectively, were staged under authentic race conditions, extending to the participation of Frankie Dettori and other experienced jockeys. The results should make punters grateful for Sheikh Mohammed's recent expression of bemusement that bookmakers had prejudged the relative merits of horses yet to be properly tested.

Sure enough, Iftitah and Dubai Millennium were among those to forfeit prominent positions in the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas or Vodafone Derby betting after disappointing in the colts' trial. Instead it was Island Sands, barely mentioned by the wagging tongues of winter, who confirmed how he has thrived in the sun. His closest pursuers were Mukhalif and Adair, whose performance augured extremely well for their prospects when stepped up in distance; both are likely to tackle traditional Derby trials.

Island Sands was recruited by Godolphin after two impressive wins for David Elsworth at Salisbury last season. A son of Turtle Island, he proved on the second occasion that he could handle soft ground with the same facility as his sire, but he evidently handled much firmer conditions with aplomb at Nad al Sheba. William Hill cut him to 14-1 from 25-1 for the Guineas, still a fair price given the calibre of his rivals in the trial. Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, said: "Island Sands has been working very well and we were delighted with his performance."

In the fillies' rehearsal, Etizaaz finished a close third and remains a very plausible fancy for the Sagitta 1,000 Guineas. Overall, though, Crisford warned: "Our plans for the Guineas remain open, as we need to see how the horses do over the next few weeks and how they travel to England."

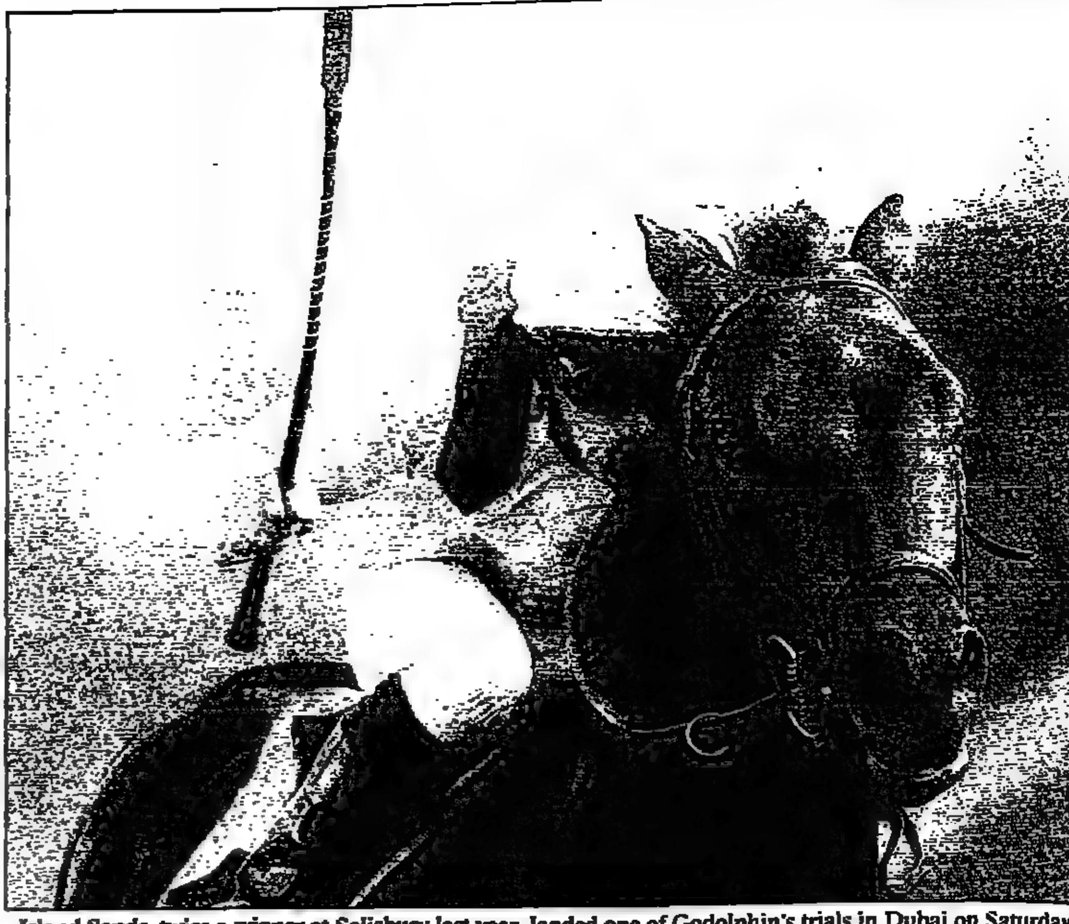
Dettori rode Etizaaz and was confident that she would improve for the trial, in which she was narrowly foiled by Pescara, a French import, and a real dark horse in Zahrat Dubai. The latter would appear an intriguing Vodafone Oaks prospect, while Calando fared creditably enough to remain a possible for the Sagitta 1,000 Guineas. That race is off the agenda, however, for Kareymah, who has had a setback, while plans are on hold for the disappointing Saytarra.

The first draft of Godolphin horses to be trained in Newmarket this season will fly from their desert base on April 25, five days before the Guineas meeting. That same classic weekend, of course, Sheikh Mohammed is dreaming of yet another new frontier in the Kentucky Derby. There was a chastening defeat on Saturday, however, for Prado's Landing — something of a "sighter" for Godolphin — in the Blue Grass Stakes at Keeneland. He finished last, doubtless emboldening local scepticism about the challenge of Worldly Manner and Aljabr.

A series of more conventional trials begin on domestic soil with the Shadwell Stud Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket tomorrow. In Ireland yesterday, the recent defeat of Stravinsky was compounded by a disappointing run from his stablemate, Black Rock Desert, in the Gladness Stakes at Leopardstown.

☐ André Fabre yesterday criticised the Vodafone Derby after Slickly had won the group two Prix Noailles at Longchamp. "It is too hard a race for three-year-olds," he said. "It has not produced a decent stallion in years and lives on its reputation. I would rather win the French Derby than at Epsom."

JULIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT



Island Sands, twice a winner at Salisbury last year, landed one of Godolphin's trials in Dubai on Saturday

WINDSOR

ROB WRIGHT

2.15 Paddywack
2.45 Maiden's Blush
3.15 Abajany
3.45 **BAYONET** (nap)
4.15 Shalateeno
4.45 Teofilio
5.15 Floating Charge

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.15 **WUXI VENTURE.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.45 **MAIDEN'S BLUSH** (nap). 3.15 Wuxi Venture. 3.45 Sweet As A Nut.

GOING: FIRM (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS
DRAW 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST



2.15 BANTRY MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,794: 5f 10yd) (18 runners)



101 (6)		COMMONWOOD (Highfields Partnership I) J Smyth-Osbourne 8-11	M Fenton	—
102 (15)		PADDYWACK (M Baker) G Lewis 8-11	N Day	—
103 (7)		ANSTAR (Park House Partnership) I Balding 8-8	K Fallon	—
104 (18)		OPTIMAITE (Always Hopeful Partnership) B Millman 8-8	T Sprake	—
105 (8)		SAMARARDO (A1 Racing Partnership) N Littmoden 8-8	T G McLaughlin	—
106 (9)		TINSEL WHISTLE (Y Sepulchre) M Jarvis 8-8	P Robinson	—
107 (5)		BONDI BAY (E Fitzpatrick) A T Murphy 8-6	Dean McKeown	—
108 (17)		CAROLS CHOICE (Monolithic Refractories Ltd) D Haydn Jones 8-6	A Mackay	—
109 (14)		COHAN (B Evans) B Palling 8-5	G Faulkner (3)	—
110 (12)		PERTEMPS STAR (Miss K Smith) A Newcombe 8-5	R Perham	—
111 (16)	6	STEP UP 12 (First Step) P Murphy 8-5	S Drowne	[illegible]
112 (4)	0	ACTUALLY 7 (A Reid) A Reid 8-3	G Duffield	—
113 (11)		MAGIC BABE (Mrs J Wotherspoon) D Elsworth 8-3	N Pollard (3)	—
114 (13)		GOOD EVANS ABOVE (P Evans) P Evans 8-0	Martin Dwyer	—
115 (1)		LEA VALLEY EXPRESS (L Valley) J Jenkins 8-0	A Whelan	—
116 (10)		MISS MILLENNIUM (Millennium Partnership) B Hills 8-0	J Quinn	—
117 (3)		SALLY-ANN (Wheelwright Wanderers) Mrs P Dutfield 8-0	P Doe (3)	—
118 (2)		SHAUBAN (M Moore) N Callaghan 8-0	R French	—

BETTING: 7-2 Anstar, 5-1 Miss Millennium, 10-1 Paddywack, Bondi Bay, 12-1 Tinsel Whistle, Carols Choice, Magic Babe, Good Evans Above, 14-1 others

1998: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING

FORM ANALYSIS The form of Step Up's debut 9l sixth to First Blood at Folkestone (5f) received a boost when fifth-placed Master Fay won at Kempton, but the likelihood is that there will be something better amongst the newcomers. The market should provide a good guide, and the draw (high numbers best) is another factor that should not be overlooked. Carols Choice (a half-sister by Emarati to two winning sprinters), Paddywack (by Bigstone), Cohan (Petong colt out of a middle-distance winner) and Magic Babe (Magic Ring filly out of a winner on the Flat and over hurdles) are a well-drawn quartet who are bred to show more than a little dash. Equally interesting though and the recipient of a tentative vote is MISS MILLENNIUM. A Sabrehill filly, she represents a stable that traditionally does well with its juveniles and which has made a promising start to the new season. Anyone considering backing Anstar should not neglect that Ian Balding saddled just one juvenile winner last year in 58 races.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Windsor: 5.15 Regal Academy. **Kelso:** 2.30 Rathura, 4.00 Political Mandate

2.45 KENMARE MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,879: 1m 2f 7yd) (15 runners)



201 (4)	58-	AFFIDAVIT 169 (Cheveley Park Stud) M Bell 8-11	M Fenton	39
202 (2)	0	MABROOKAH 17 (H Al-Maktoum) K Mahdi 8-11	J Quinn	49
203 (13)	0-	MAIDEN'S BLUSH 163 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-11	L Dettori	56
204 (15)	4	MARRY ME 46 (D Self) C Brittain 8-11	P Robinson	13
205 (1)	0-	MEGA 215 (Mystic Meg Ltd) M Tompkins 8-11	S Drowne	57
206 (6)	00-	MOONLIT WATER 208 (Aylesfield Farms Ltd) J Fanshawe 8-11	G Carter	45
207 (8)		MY ANNETTE (J Allen) J Fanshawe 8-11	R Cochrane	—
208 (3)	34-	NAUGHTY CROWN 168 (G Beck) P Cole 8-11	J Fortune	[illegible]
209 (5)	06-	NIKA NESGODA 163 (C Humphris) J Dunlop 8-11	Pat Eddery	62
210 (9)	45-	RADA'S DAUGHTER 188 (Mrs R Plummer) I Balding 8-11	K Fallon	31
211 (14)	50-	RED MAY 264 (T Neill) R Hannon 8-11	Dane O'Neill	44
212 (11)	00-	ROSA CANINA 167 (J Dunlop) J Dunlop 8-11	T Sprake	49
213 (10)	3500-S	SWAN LAKE 100 (A Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 8-11	M Roberts	—
214 (12)	00-	TYROLEAN LOVE 163 (Mrs B Sumner) C Horgan 8-11	A Clark	26
215 (7)	0-	VILLA WANDA 163 (Lord H De Walden) W Jarvis 8-11	T Quinn	26

BETTING: 6-4 Maiden's Blush, 11-2 Naughty Crown, 8-1 Nika Nesgoda, 10-1 My Annette, Rada's Daughter, 14-1 Mabrookah, 16-1 Mega, Rosa Canina, Tyrolean Love, 20-1 others

FORM ANALYSIS Carry The Flag's victory in the Rosebery Handicap at Kempton got the new Paul Cole/Jimmy Fortune alliance off to a promising start and NAUGHTY CROWN looks another potential winner for the partnership here. The daughter of Chief's Crown showed promise in maidens at Nottingham and Lingfield (7f) last season, most recently on the latter track finishing 2¾l fourth to Bafisada. Maiden's Blush, a $240,000 yearling by Silver Hawk (sire of Derby winner Benny The Dip and whose runners tend to come into their own over middle distances), rates a big threat. She recovered from a tardy start to finish a never-nearer 6¾l seventh of 16 to Eden in a seven-furlong Newmarket maiden last October (Tyrolean Love and Villa Wanda behind) and can be expected to go on to better things this year. She comes with a sound enough reputation from Newmarket. Nika Nesgoda, 6¾l sixth of 15 to Noushkey in a Newmarket (7f) maiden the second of her two starts last year, looks the stronger of her stable's two runners.

3.15 RUSSELL REED CLASSIFIED STAKES
(£6,302: 1m 67yd) (8 runners)

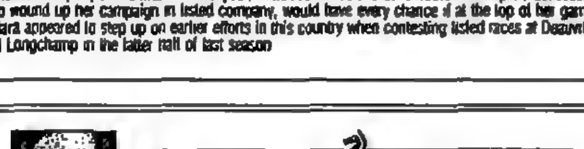




301 (6)	04030-	ABAJANY 105J (D,G,S) (J White & Partners) M Channon 5-9-6	T Quinn	103
302 (1)	60120-	VIRTUAL REALITY 191 (D,F,G) (Ash Partnership) J Toller 8-9-6	S Sanders	104
303 (4)	15102-	WUXI VENTURE 192 (D,G,S) (Dr F Chao) S Woods 4-9-6	G Duffield	[illegible]
304 (8)	22100-	FREDORA 198 (F,G) (P Golding) M Blanshard 4-9-3	J Quinn	99
305 (7)	154d5/	THE PRINCE 568 (T,D,F) (Mohican Syndicate) R Cowell 5-9-3	J Weaver	—
306 (3)	10630-	YULARA 197 (G) (S Ryan) B Meehan 4-9-0	Pat Eddery	89
307 (5)	6116-5	BATHWICK 16 (D,F,G) (W Clifford) B Smart 3-8-5	D Holland	91
308 (2)	5044-2	SAMPOWER STAR 16 (F) (Sampower Racing) R Hannon 3-8-5	Dane O'Neill	91

BETTING: 4-1 Wuxi Venture, Yulara, Sampower Star, 9-2 Virtual Reality, 7-1 Bathwick, 8-1 Abajany, Fredora, 16-1 The Prince.

FORM ANALYSIS SAMPOWER STAR, trained by Rod Simpson when scoring twice last season, has a good chance to resume winning ways in a race restricted to horses rated 0-90. He showed his present wellbeing when chasing home Windshift (beaten 3½l) off a mark of 89 at Warwick (1m) last month, with Bathwick (same terms) over 5l back in fifth. Virtual Reality, the winner of a Salisbury handicap (1m) off 78 before finishing runner-up in a 0-85 at Thirsk last August, won first time out last year and should give a good account. Wuxi Venture found only Keld too good (beaten 2l) in a similar event at Newmarket (1m) on his final start last year, while Fredora, a two-time winner at Kempton last season who wound up her campaign in listed company, would have every chance if at the top of her game. Yulara appeared to step up on earlier efforts in this country when contesting listed races at Deauville and Longchamp in the latter half of last season



READING THE RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F - fell, P - pulled up, U - unseated rider, B - brought down, S - slipped up, R - refused, D - disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps. (B - blinkers, V - visor, T - tongue strap, H - hood, E - Eyeshield, C - course winner, D - distance winner, CD course and distance winner, BF - beaten favourite in most recent race). Going on which horse has won (F - firm, good to firm, hard, G - good, S - soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight to be carried. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

3.45 LADBROKE BEARA (SHOWCASE HANDICAP AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE)
(3-Y-O: £7,653: 6f) (24 runners)



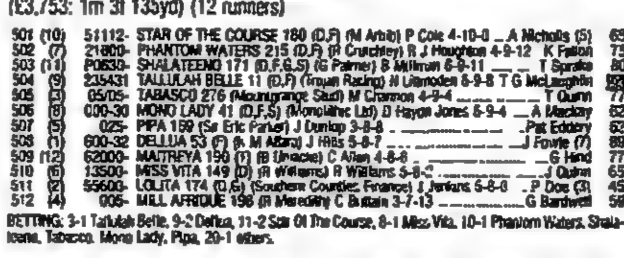
401 (10)	0024-0	ACHILLES STAR 16 (D,G,S) (Achilles International) I Burke 9-7	D Williams (7)	72
402 (23)	543-30	KUWAIT THUNDER 9 (BF) (Greenfield Stud) K Mahdi 9-6	J Quinn	75
403 (9)	33030-	AUBRIETA 180 (A Saeed) C Brittain 9-2	P Robinson	69
404 (13)	60-320	PISCES LAD 7 (J Falvey & G Williamson) S Dow 9-2	P Doe (3)	69
405 (12)	62212-	BEVELENA 243 (BF,S) (Mrs F Veasey) P Evans 9-1	J Fortune	86
406 (3)	0550-0	SWEET AS A NUT 9 (F,G,S) (Wessex House Racing) C Dwyer 8-13	J Weaver	80
407 (7)	21354-	CASHIKI 189 (BF,D,F,S) (Valley Commandos) B Palling 8-13	G Faulkner (3)	71
408 (20)	422-	BAYONET 273 (BF) (Lady Rothschild) R Johnson Houghton 8-13	K Fallon	83
409 (2)	408-2	TOP STAR 16 (V) (S Crimo) M Channon 8-13	T Quinn	78
410 (8)	6024-1	LIVELY LADY 14 (V,D,S) (S Powell) J Jenkins 8-13	D Holland	78
411 (16)	03-4	KINGSTREE 17 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-12	L Dettori	50
412 (17)	038-	ELMS SCHOOLGIRL 277 (Park Lodge Racing) J Eustace 8-12	J Tate	70
413 (5)	-01130	NERO TIROL 7 (B,D) (Osvaldo Pedroni) A Kelleway 8-11	P Fredericks (5)	79
414 (19)	04-415	CATCHTHEBATCH 68 (D) (Over The Bridge) E Wheeler 8-10	S Carson (5)	84
415 (15)	0120-9	LA PAOLA 9 (S) (G Bartocchi) B Meehan 8-9	Pat Eddery	74
416 (18)	65060-	BRIDGEND BLUE 132 (Caradog, Dallen, Dawson) M Bell 8-7	M Fenton	72
417 (4)	06660-	LORD STROLLER 213 (R Gadge, M Calvert) B Millman 8-4	T Sprake	72
418 (11)	221152	COMPTON AKKA 11 (E Penser) G A Butler 8-2	G Carter	81
419 (1)	4366-6	ADDITION 14 (J Mursell) R Hodges 8-2	S Drowne	77
420 (21)	-61433	DONE AND DUSTED 11 (P Stringer) R Brotherton 8-1	A Polli (3)	82
421 (22)	006-4	MILADY LILLIE 24 (L Ivory) K Ivory 8-1	Martin Dwyer	67
422 (6)	004300	GLASTONBURY 14 (P Howling) P Howling 7-13	C Rutter	[illegible]
423 (24)	0000-	TILIA 194 (Mrs W Gibson Fleming) R Hannon 7-10	P Fitzsimons (7)	50
424 (14)	00400-	KINGFISHERS BONNET 168 (P Wightman) S Knight 7-10	A Nicholls (5)	69

Long handicap: Kingfishers Bonnet 7-8

BETTING: 13-2 Bevelena, 7-1 Bayonet, 8-1 Kingstree, 10-1 Top Star, Lively Lady, Compton Akka, 12-1 Cashiki, Nero Tirol, Lord Stroller, 14-1 others.

FORM ANALYSIS Kingstree will attract interest representing John Gosden and Frankie Dettori and making his handicap bow, but there was little in his reappearance 17l fourth to Noul at Doncaster (7f) to encourage support here. A better proposition is BAYONET. She had the worst of the draw when 1¼l second of 18 to Almost Amber in a Salisbury (5f) maiden last June and it may pay to overlook her odds-on reverse at Brighton the following month. Kieren Fallon is a notable booking. Lively Lady, upped 6lb for her Nottingham (6f, heavy) defeat of Mooche Cha Man (Addition (sixth) and Glastonbury (11th) held) remains fairly weighted but may prove less well suited by today's faster ground. Top Star appeared to appreciate the step up to 7f when chasing home Kentucky Bullet at Doncaster (Kuwait Thunder (4lb better off) 2½l third) and makes only limited appeal here from a disadvantageous draw. Bevelena did all her racing at five furlongs last season.

4.15 GLANDORE FILLIES HANDICAP
(£3,753: 1m 3f 135yd) (12 runners)



501 (10)	51112-	STAR OF THE COURSE 180 (D,F) (M Arbib) P Cole 4-10-0	A Nicholls (5)	65
502 (7)	21800-	PHANTOM WATERS 215 (D,F) (R Crutchley) R J Houghton 4-9-12	K Fallon	73
503 (11)	P0630-	SHALATEENO 171 (D,F,G,S) (G Palmer) B Millman 6-9-11	T Sprake	80
504 (9)	235431	TALLULAH BELLE 11 (D,F) (Trojan Racing) N Littmoden 6-9-8	T G McLaughlin	[illegible]
505 (3)	05/05-	TABASCO 276 (Mountgrange Stud) M Channon 4-9-4	T Quinn	77
506 (8)	000-30	MONO LADY 41 (D,F,S) (Monolithic Ltd) D Haydn Jones 6-9-4	A Mackay	62
507 (5)	025-	PIPA 159 (Sir Eric Parker) J Dunlop 3-8-8	Pat Eddery	62
508 (1)	600-32	DELLUA 53 (F) (R M Alfara) J Hills 5-8-7	J Fowle (7)	88
509 (12)	62000-	MAITREYA 190 (F) (B Unrache) C Allen 4-8-6	G Hind	77
510 (6)	13500-	MISS VITA 149 (D) (R Williams) R Williams 5-8-2	J Quinn	65
511 (2)	55600-	LOLITA 174 (D,G) (Southern Counties Finance) J Jenkins 5-8-0	P Doe (3)	45
512 (4)	005-	MILL AFRIQUE 198 (R Meredith) C Brittain 3-7-13	G Bardwell	58

BETTING: 3-1 Tallulah Belle, 9-2 Dellua, 11-2 Star Of The Course, 8-1 Miss Vita, 10-1 Phantom Waters, Shalateeno, Tabasco, Mono Lady, Pipa, 20-1 others.

FORM ANALYSIS Tallulah Belle and Dellua have been running well on the all-weather tracks but the form is modest, nor is it certain to translate well to turf. Phantom Waters was given a clever tactical ride to win at Brighton (1m 4f) last July, taking advantage of faster ground on the stands' rail. Her subsequent form was ordinary. Shalateeno, a confirmed front-runner, ended last season running over longer trips, so preference is for STAR OF THE COURSE. She rattled up a treble over this trip last summer in the style of a progressive filly and she may yet have more to offer. Perhaps the most interesting of those towards the bottom of the handicap is Miss Vita, a winner on the all-weather at Wolverhampton last summer but who also has respectable placed form on turf to her name

4.45 BALTIMORE HANDICAP
(Div I: £2,878: 1m 67yd) (18 runners)



601 (18)	200-10	STILL WATERS 56 (D) (Mrs J Wood) I Bell 4-9-12	Pat Eddery	67
602 (5)	0000-6	MYTTONS MISTAKE 14 (D,F,G,S) (P Slade) R Hodges 6-9-11	M Fenton	80
603 (4)	-00421	TEOFILIO 62 (B,D,F) (Iona Stud) A McNae 5-9-8	T Sprake	75
604 (16)	563255	PROSPECTOR'S COVE 16 (D,F,G,S) (Saracen Racing) J Pearce 6-9-7	R Price	79
605 (1)	00030-	WORTH THE EFFORT 182 (A & M Barnett) M Tompkins 4-9-4	S Drowne	80
606 (9)	00060-	GREAT MELODY 195 (V,D) (Crown Pkg) D Cosgrove 4-9-4	Dean McKeown	69
607 (10)	058262	MAWKAB 6 (B,BF,D) (M Butler) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-2	K Fallon	69
608 (15)	40000-	WARRING 107 (CD,F,G) (C Scott) M Saunders 5-9-1	S Sanders	84
609 (3)	001-01	THE STAGER 6 (T,D,F,G) (Southern Counties) J Jenkins 7-9-1 (6ex)	L Dettori	70
610 (11)	105054	DELIGHT OF DAWN 16 (B,CD,F,G) (Diamani) E Wheeler 7-8-13	S Carson (5)	75
611 (14)	56320-	JUNKAY 179 (G) (Ellangowan Racing) R Ingram 5-8-13	N Pollard (3)	79
612 (8)	0300-0	ALFAHAAL 14 (D,F,S) (M Foulger) C Dwyer 6-8-13	J Fortune	—
613 (7)	00060-	MAC'S DREAM 117 (BF) (J Martin) A Carroll 4-8-10	M Tebbutt	52
614 (2)	-25426	HOMESTEAD 30 (D,F,G) (G Shoemark) R Hannon 5-8-10	Dane O'Neill	75
615 (13)	0/0550	MELASUS 7 (F) (Mrs A Haynes) D Arbuthnot 7-8-8	S Whitworth	66
616 (12)	30/00/	YOUNG BUTT 543 (D,S) (D Newman) B Pearce 6-8-5	P Doe (3)	—
617 (6)	0-6400	MARK TIME 12 (T Gist) P Hedger 4-8-5	A Clark	64
618 (17)	0-0206	FAMOUS 25 (D,F,G,S) (Exors late M Pascall) J Bridger 6-8-4	R Brisland (7)	[illegible]

BETTING: 5-1 Prospector's Cove, 11-2 Teofilio, 6-1 Mawkab, 7-1 Delight Of Dawn, 8-1 Still Waters, The Stager, 10-1 Myttons Mistake, 12-1 others.

FORM ANALYSIS A host of all-weather performers returning to turf makes a tricky handicap even more complex. Teofilio won well at Lingfield (1m) in February and has form on fast ground, while Mawkab and Homestead are capable of fair form without being regular winners. The Stager is not helped by picking up a 6lb penalty for his neck defeat of Killarney Jazz at Southwell (1m) last week, although Still Waters could be better suited by this trip after failing over 1m 3f last time. However, a tentative vote goes to DELIGHT OF DAWN, a course and distance winner. She was running on well when 5½l fifth to Ajig Dancer at Warwick (7f) last time and will be suited by moving up in trip.

5.15 BALTIMORE HANDICAP
(Div II: £2,878: 1m 67yd) (18 runners)

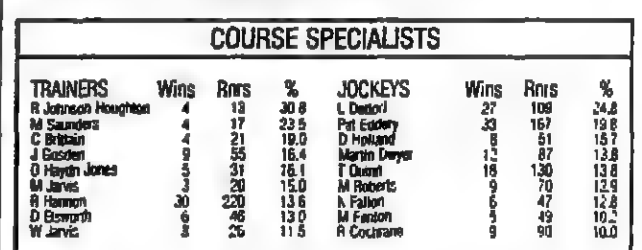


1 (10)	51060-	FLOATING CHARGE 191 (F) (L Curtis) J Fanshawe 5-9-11	R Cochrane	67
2 (12)	3210-0	SWINGING THE BLUES 11 (D,F,S) (S B Components) C Dwyer 5-9-10	M Henry	72
3 (18)	05150	ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 16 (R Berenson) P Howling 4-9-7	J Fortune	67
4 (6)	0-5010	IMPELLING 35 (T,D) (D Littlejohn & Partners) I Burke 4-9-6	K Fallon	56
5 (16)	15004-	DURHAM FLYER 173 (S) (Alan Spargo) J Cullinan 4-9-4	D Sweeney	67
6 (9)	1-4405	INCEPTA 11 (T,D) (Racing Thoroughbreds) P McEntee 4-9-3	W J O'Connor	61
7 (17)	606-00	CIEL DE REVE 14 (D,G) (A Bradley) K Comerford 5-9-1	T G McLaughlin	36
8 (3)	0-3510	APPROACHABLE 30 (BF) (J Mills) R Phillips 4-9-1	Martin Dwyer	73
9 (13)	061056	HEVER GOLF GLORY 12 (D,G) (Gemini Associates) C Kellett 5-8-13	T Quinn	[illegible]
10 (11)	00000-	ARTFUL DANE 184 (V,CD,F) (S P Lansdown) M H-Ellis 7-8-12	J Weaver	57
11 (8)	00430-	ARBENIG 131 (F) (Smallwood & Evans) B Palling 4-8-10	G Faulkner (3)	88
12 (1)	000-	LADY JO 228 (A Butler) S Dow 3-8-10	P Doe (3)	40
13 (15)	-50406	COMEOUTOFTHEFOG 11 (D) (T Beecroft) A McNae 4-8-8	S Sanders	87
14 (2)	0004-0	FUEGIAN 88 (D Knight) M Madgwick 4-8-7	M Fenton	84
15 (7)	00U56-	REGAL ACADEMY 194 (B) (Mrs B Sumner) C Horgan 5-8-6	D Holland	66
16 (14)	0000-2	DESERT WARRIOR 7 (H Al-Maktoum) K Mahdi 5-8-5	J Quinn	33
17 (5)	0-0000	POLISH LEGION 24J (F) (R J P J Partnership) J Akehurst 6-8-4	G Duffield	96
18 (4)	55300-	MISSILE TOE 208 (F) (Stag & Huntsman) D Morris 6-8-3	N Day	75

BETTING: 6-1 Absolute Majority, 13-2 Approachable, 7-1 Swinging The Blues, 8-1 Incepta, Comeoutofthefog, 10-1 Floating Charge, Impelling, Durham Flyer, 12-1 others.

FORM ANALYSIS Floating Charge is not without a chance despite his big weight and having to overcome a lengthy lay-off. He goes well on this ground, as does Arbenig, although she was beaten in a seller last year. Approachable failed to add to a success in a minor Wolverhampton race (7f) last month, and Absolute Majority and Impelling are others whose all-weather wins this season probably do not amount to much. Hever Golf Glory has an all-weather success to his name this term but is too inconsistent to place a great deal of faith in. Another teasing contest, but SWINGING THE BLUES has enough in his favour to get the nod. He has reasonable winning form at this trip, can handle this ground and should be sharper for his seasonal debut at Leicester 11 days ago

COURSE SPECIALISTS



TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
R Johnson Houghton	4	13	30.8	L Dettori	27	109	24.8
M Saunders	4	17	23.5	Pat Eddery	33	167	19.8
C Brittain	4	21	19.0	D Holland	8	51	15.7
J Gosden	9	55	16.4	Martin Dwyer	12	87	13.8
D Haydn Jones	5	31	16.1	T Quinn	18	130	13.8
M Jarvis	3	20	15.0	M Roberts	9	70	12.9
R Hannon	30	220	13.6	K Fallon	6	47	12.8
D Elsworth	6	46	13.0	M Fenton	5	49	10.2
W Jarvis	3	26	11.5	R Cochrane	9	90	10.0

☐ Richard Quinn continued his fine start to the Flat with a treble on Barringer, Captain Miller and Shakiey at Hamilton Park on Saturday, taking his total to 17. All three are trained by Mick Channon.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Today's hand comes from the British Mixed Pairs Championship (the Portland Pairs). Take a look at the full deal and decide whether declarer should make his Three No-Trumps or if the defenders should prevail.

Dealer North — Game all — Pairs

North: ♠ A K 9 8 4 ♡ K Q ♢ J 8 7 ♣ A J 3
West: ♠ Q 5 2 ♡ 7 6 3 ♢ A Q 9 4 2 ♣ 10 4
East: ♠ J 10 7 6 3 ♡ J 10 8 ♢ 6 ♣ K Q 6 2
South: ♠ – ♡ A 9 5 4 2 ♢ K 10 5 3 ♣ 9 8 7 5

S	W	N	E
–	–	1 S	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: four of diamonds.

When Sally and Raymond Brock were East and West, declarer won the seven of diamonds in dummy, cashed the king and queen of hearts and played the jack of diamonds to West's queen. West switched to the ten of clubs covered by the jack and queen and East returned the three of spades to the queen and king. Declarer played another diamond, won by the ace, and West played a second club. Declarer rose with the ace and exited with a club but East won and was guaranteed two further spade tricks in the endgame for two down.

This accurate defence by the eventual winners scored them well above average, but it is not easy to see how declarer can succeed.

Welsh International Mike Hirst, playing with his wife Ann, showed the way. He won the diamond lead, cashed the king and queen of hearts and played a low club from the dummy. It was hard for East to duck this (and on the line declarer chose it would not have helped in any event); he won his queen and switched to a spade to West's queen, declarer throwing a club. When declarer ducked this, West continued with a second club. Declarer rose with the ace, cashed the ace and king of spades (throwing a club and a heart) and played a low diamond to his ten.

What could West do? If he ducked declarer had nine winners. If he won he could cash his ace of diamonds but then had to put declarer in his hand for the rest of the tricks.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

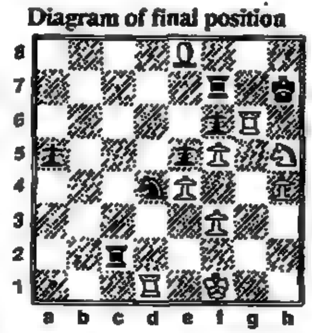
Veteran wins

Viktor Korchnoi, the veteran grandmaster now in his late 60s, who twice challenged for the World Championship in 1978 and 1981 has got off to a good start at the elite tournament at Dos Hermanas in Spain. In round two he inflicted defeat on Judith Polgar, who in the first round herself defeated Viswanathan Anand.

White: Viktor Korchnoi
Black: Judith Polgar
Dos Hermanas 1999
Grunfeld Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	d5
4	cxd5	Nxd5
5	Bd2	Bg7
6	e4	Nb6
7	Be3	0-0
8	Be2	Nc6
9	Nf3	Bg4
10	d5	Bxf3
11	gxf3	Na5
12	Bd4	c5
13	Bxg7	Kxg7
14	Qc2	e5
15	Nd1	Nd7
16	Qc3	a6
17	f4	f6
18	f5	g5
19	h4	h6
20	Ne3	Qb6
21	a3	c4
22	Rd1	Nc5
23	Qb4	Qb5
24	f3	Rac8
25	Kf2	b6
26	Kg2	g4
27	Nxg4	Ncb3
28	Rhg1	Qxb4
29	axb4	Nb7
30	Kf2	Kh7
31	Ne3	Nd6
32	Rg6	h5
33	Nf1	Nd4
34	Ng3	c3
35	bxc3	Rxc3
36	Bd3	a5
37	bxa5	bxa5
38	Nxh5	Ne8
39	d6	Rf7
40	d7	Rxd7
41	Bb5	Rc2+
42	Kf1	Rf7
43	Bxe8	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Times schools

The pairings for the quarter-finals of *The Times* National Schools Championship are as follows: Manchester Grammar v Royal Belfast Academical Institute, Oakham School v Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Wakefield, St Pauls School v Tiffin School, Torquay Boys Grammar School v Magdalen College School Oxford.

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by email. The address is keene@chessaol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from International Grandmaster Raymond Keenes daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99+p&p).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ADONIZE
a. A form of torture
b. To prettify
c. A strong alkali

BASKE
a. A two-year salmon
b. A set at pelota
c. To bash

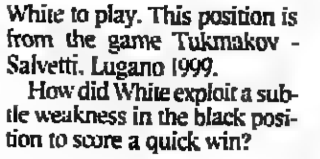
BROGGLE
a. A bogey
b. A type of seaweed
c. To poke with a stick

ANGELET
a. A female angel
b. An acid
c. A coin

Answer on page 49

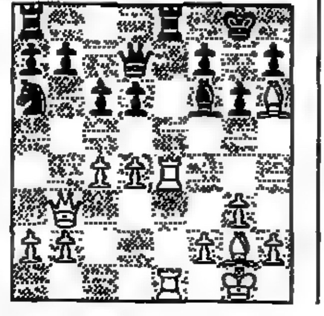
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

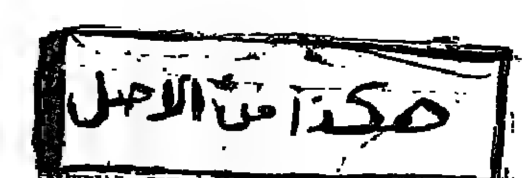


White to play. This position is from the game Tukmakov - Salvetti, Lugano 1999.

How did White exploit a subtle weakness in the black position to score a quick win?



Solution on page 49



Grand National: Irish success at Aintree is a family affair, as **Alan Lee** discovers

Confidence breeds success for Carberrys

Tommy Carberry needed to think for only a moment before summing up the virtues of his son's jockeyship in a single word. "Confidence," he said with parental satisfaction, before puffing on the first cigar of what, he was pleased to predict, would be a prodigious celebration even by his high standards.

When it comes to confidence at Aintree, the senior Carberry is a qualified judge. Back in 1975, he had been so infused with the stuff that, in a conversation at the start that has gone down in jockeys' legend, he told a group of colleagues that he was about to win the National.

This conviction, stunning in a breed of men who barely like to forecast they will jump the first fence in this most daunting of races, was offered despite the presence in the opposition of a certain Red Rum, to whom winning round here was mere routine. "I am sure they thought I was mad," Carberry said of his audience. "But I just felt that with an ordinary run of luck we would win."

Carberry duly fulfilled his expectations aboard L'Escargot, who had already won two Cheltenham Gold Cups, and on Saturday, with the help of his eldest son Paul and a horse called Bobbyjo, he joined the elite group who have both ridden and trained National winners, a feat last completed by Fred Winter in 1965. Of at least equal significance, Carberry was also providing Ireland with its first National winner since .... well, since he last won it.

On a bright, blustery Saturday, an Irish roar had already shaken the timbers of the winners' enclosure, one of the few parts of Aintree that remains much as Carberry left it in 1975. Istabraq had returned to an exultant reception after another exhibition of haughty supremacy over his hurdling generation. He will aim to complete a clean sweep of the principal festivals at Punchestown later this month.

Most of the Irish present would have settled for that, for the National has long since ceased to be an event to which they travel with much expectation. This time, though, there was a horse to give them hope, a horse worth opening the wallets for. They did so to such effect that Bobbyjo, available at 22-1 in the morning, was sent off at 10-1.

MARC ASPLAND



Carberry eases up on Bobbyjo after matching his father's 1975 success

It was not insider trading, for the owner, Bobby Burke, made his money from booze rather than betting. He owns a string of pubs in north London but says he gave up gambling ten years ago. The confidence was not misplaced, though, for it was met with the mutual faith of the family Carberry. This matchless event seldom falls short in the human interest stakes but this dynasty from Co Meath is something else. Tommy trains the horse, his wife Pamela rides him at work and youngest son Philip partnered him to win his unusual Aintree preparation, a two-mile hurdle race at Down Royal. And then there is Paul.

Mere mention of Paul Carberry among his peers brings smiles, raised eyebrows and hair-raising anecdotes that bear no public repetition. At 25, Paul is prankster and party animal supreme. As with many such extroverts, there is innate shyness beneath, but by inclination Carberry belongs to an earlier, less po-faced generation.

He is a throwback to the days before heightened professionalism and punitive breathalyser laws trimmed the devilment from jump jockeys. He is very much a chip off the old block, the son of a man who could raise hell with the best of them. Yet he also has a talent for coaxing the best out of horses that can make as stern a judge as his father purr with pleasure. "He's better than I ever was," Tommy said, and compliments do not come much greater.

Paul Carberry was never entirely settled in England, despite the security of a retainer from owner Robert Ogden. His heart stayed in Ireland but when he returned there this year, he carried his abiding ambition to come back and win the National, just as he had watched his father do so many times on videotape. This, he recognised with the clarity if not the stated certainty of Tommy in 1975, was his chance. He claimed to have been in bed by 9pm on Friday, which was not only some sort of record but an indicator of his desire.

Bobbyjo — named after Burke and his wife, Jo — is nine years old, statistically the best age to win a National. He is a proven stayer, having won the Irish National a year ago. If one factor dimmed the confidence, he was a stone out of the handicap, but the Carberrys knew he was better than that.

More often than not, confidence comes before a fall at Aintree. Joe Tizzard had radiated belief in Double Thriller, who had looked sure to go off the shortest-priced favourite since Red Rum when Carberry senior beat him in 1975. On the day, though, the public deserted Double Thriller and so did fortune. He overjumped at the first fence and slid to the turf.

It was not to prove a race of carnage and recriminations, however. Other than at Becher's on the second circuit, where three fallers included Eudipe, fatally, and the surprising favourite Fiddling The Facts was brought down, only four more horses hit the deck.

Approaching the final fence, there were still four possible winners, including Richard Dunwoody on Call It A Day and Adrian Maguire on Addington Boy. But the English-trained horses were to be run out of it by the representatives of Ireland and Scotland.

For a few strides after the last, it looked as though Blue Charm could become the first Scottish winner since Rubstic, 20 years ago. Then Carberry, who had treated his horse with customary kid gloves, produced from him a devastating sprint that put the result beyond question in a matter of yards.

The jockey was celebrating wildly 50 yards before the winning post, while the trainer watched calmly on the big screen in the parade ring, wearing the quiet smile of the vindicated. Tommy trains only 15 horses, close to Fairyhouse racecourse, and says he seeks no more. His resolve in that matter may be tested after this triumph.

In the winner's enclosure, Burke punched the air repeatedly, paraded his son before Des Lynam and enjoyed the uproarious chanting of several coachloads of his pub regulars. Paul Carberry swung from the rafters, possibly not for the last time on an evening that threatened to provide Liverpool's Adelphi Hotel with a party worth another TV documentary to itself.

Simon Barnes, page 37

JOHN GILES



Bobbyjo clears the open ditch on his way to victory in the Martell Grand National

AINTREE'S FENCES, FALLERS AND FINISHERS

KEY: First time round / Second time round

Belle Life pulled up
Castle Coin unseated rider
Tamarindo fell
Mudahim unseated rider
Double Thriller unseated rider
Cavalero pulled up
Eudipe fell
Fiddling The Facts brought down
Frazer Island fell
Camelot Knight fell
Choisty brought down
Baronet fell
Cyborgo pulled up
Commercial Artist pulled up
START
FINISHING POST

FINISHERS

1 Bobbyjo
2 Blue Charm
3 Call It A Day
4 Addington Boy
5 Feels Like Gold
6 Brave Highlander
7 Kendal Cavalier
8 Earth Summit
9 St Mellion Fairway
10 Samlee
11 Nahthen Lad
12 General Wolfe
13 Suny Bay
14 Bask Bar
15 Strong Chairman
16 Merry People
17 Avro Anson
18 and last Coome Hill

Bobbyjo to chase Whitbread bonus

By Chris McGrath

CONNECTIONS of Bobbyjo are to chase a £50,000 bonus and send their Martell Grand National winner for the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown Park on Saturday week. The bonus goes to any horse finishing placed in the Aintree race and winning the Whitbread.

Trainer Tommy Carberry, beseiged by a crowd of over 1,000 on Bobbyjo's triumphant homecoming to the Co Meath village of Ratoath yesterday, said: "Yes, he will go for the Whitbread."

Opposition at Sandown is likely to include long-time National favourite Double Thriller, the dampest of squibs when unseating Joe Tizzard at the first fence, and David Nicholson's Baronet, another early casualty when falling at the fourth.

Trainer Paul Nicholls yesterday reported Double Thriller none the worse for his mishap. "He's out in the paddock now and is as right as rain," the trainer said.

"It was one of those unfortunate things that happen in a race like the Grand National.

Chris McGrath tipped the 10-1 Grand National winner, Bobbyjo, in The Times on Saturday

He jumped the fence okay but just seemed to crumple and go down.

"Anyway, the main thing is that the horse is all right as he jumped round loose for a circuit and then pulled himself up, but he seems fine and I think the Whitbread Gold Cup could be next."

Nicholson, reporting his two National runners in good order said: "Call It A Day and Baronet are absolutely fine. I would doubt Call It A Day will run in the Whitbread. We will decide in a day or two but he has just gone four and a half miles round Aintree. It is more likely that Baronet will run — he is fine after his fall."

The tragic loss of Eudipe was the nadir of two grim days for David Johnson. Last season's champion owner, who had not despaired of retaining that status when arriving in Liverpool, instead endured a meeting of the most savage ill fortune.

On Friday, Gris d'Estruval broke a hind leg on the flat in the John Hughes Chase. Then Eudipe was left horribly stricken at Becher's second time round.

"It was bad enough to lose Gris d'Estruval," Johnson reflected yesterday. "You hold your breath when they're jumping fences, but hardly expect anything to happen between them. And then Eudipe. I took my wife and daughter up there and they were naturally pretty distressed, but my heart really goes out to the stable staff. They are the forgotten heroes. They are with these horses every day but today they are looking at empty boxes.

"I spoke to Tony McCoy earlier and he has taken a nasty kicking, but all he's concerned about is the horse. He's very upset."

BIG-RACE DETAILS

3.45 MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL (Handicap chase £242,600: 4m 4f)

1, **BOBBYJO** .. P Carberry, 10-1
2, **Blue Charm** ...... L Wyer, 25-1
3, **Call It A Day** ..R Dunwoody, 7-1
4, **Addington Boy** A Maguire, 10-1

Fiddling The Facts 6-1 fav. 32 ran. 10l, nk. T Carberry in Ireland. Tote: £13.30; £2.50, £4.60, £2.10, £3.70. DF: £216.40. Trifecta: £3,263.90. CSF: £228.52. Tricast: £1,725.50

KELSO

ROB WRIGHT
2.00 Kibby Bank
2.30 Chevalier Errant
3.00 Eastlands Hi-Light
3.30 Shinerolla (nb)
4.00 Ingletonian
4.30 Coole Abbey
5.00 Cash Box

Carl Evans: 3.00 Faster Ron. 4.30 Coole Abbey.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.00 GRAHAM BUILDERS MERCHANTS NOVICES CHASE (£3,838: 3m 1f) (12 runners)

1 P1-P BIG JUMPA 72 (T,S) T Etherington 6-11-2 .. A Thornton —
2 3404 COPPEEN JEWEL 33 (B,F) J J O'Neill 6-11-2 .... R McGrath [illegible]
3 2-P6 CROFTON LAKE 184 (F) J Dixon 11-11-2 ...... M Brennan —
4 0543 HARDEN GLEN 7 (S) Mrs J Storey 8-11-2 ...... B Storey 90
5 3343 KIBBY BANK 25 J Howard Johnson 10-11-2 Mr J Crowley (5) 96
6 0F0P KINGS LANE 38 (F,G) J Dun 10-11-2 .... A Dobbin 75
7 0-00 MISTER AUDI 296 (G) M Hammond 7-11-2 ..... B Harding —
8 3F00 PLEASEDASPUNCH 35 (G) Mrs J Storey 7-11-2 Mr C Storey —
9 46PU SPRINGLEA TOWER 14 R Nixon 6-11-2 .... T Reed 54
10 PP-0 BUTTERNUT SAL 14 D Lamb 8-10-11 .... J Burke —
11 PPF0 INNOVATE 14 (T) Miss L Russell 7-10-11 ..... R Johnson —
12 0P0 COBRA GIRL 107 J Barclay 5-10-2 .... J Supple —

9-4 Coppeen Jewel, 3-1 Harden Glen, Kibby Bank, 8-1 Mister Audi, 10-1 Big Jumpa, 14-1 Pleasedaspunch, 20-1 Crofton Lake, Kings Lane, 25-1 others.

2.30 CHEVIOT RENTALS (MARQUEE HIRE) NH NOVICES HURDLE (£3,025: 2m 110yd) (19)

1 1534 BIT O MAGIC 31 (D,F) R Allan 7-11-6 .... B Storey 85
2 1-05 BRANCH END 116 (F) J Charlton 7-11-6 ..... A Maguire 74
3 BLAZING COUNTY N Mason 8-11-0 .... Mr L McGrath —
4 0-00- BRANDON BRIDGE 487 T Cuthbert 8-11-0 Mr T Davidson (7) —
5 0066 BUTELAND BOY 14 J Gleeson 7-11-0 .... B Harding —
6 -6P0 CAMP HILL 42 J Haldane 5-11-0 .... A S Smith 43
7 053 CHEVALIER ERRANT 31 J Adam 6-11-0 .... B Powell [illegible]
8 2608 DYNAMIC LORD 7 (S) T Tate 5-11-0 .... J Callaghan 45
9 P03 HONEST HERBERT 44 J Howard Johnson 6-11-0 Mr J Crowley (5) 23
10 0-00 INGLE DENE 126 B Mactaggart 6-11-0 .... G Lee 41
11 F-0 KINGS INCH 67 J Dun 5-11-0 .... A Dobbin —
12 00P0 RATHURE 45 (B,F) J Curtis 7-11-0 .... A Thornton 36
13 00P RED ARK 67 (T) N Mason 6-11-0 .... R Guest —
14 0-PF RICHCHRIS 57P E W Tuer 6-11-0 .... N Smith —
15 6-04 TELL MONTY 59 Mrs J Brown 7-11-0 .... B Fenton 90
16 5P60 GUILE POINT 27 (B) D Lamb 8-10-9 .... J Burke 55
17 0 LEITH SANDS 104 P Monteith 6-10-9 .. C McCormack (3) —
18 -600 LUMBACK LADY 87 B Mactaggart 9-10-9 Mr B Gibson (7) 90
19 65 CHARTER ROYAL 38 A Dickens 4-10-6 .... D Parker 17

2-1 Chevalier Errant, 5-1 Bit O Magic, 6-1 Branch End, 7-1 Tell Monty, 10-1 Dynamic Lord, 12-1 Honest Herbert, 14-1 Ingle Dene, Guile Point, 25-1 others.

3.00 DRYBURGH ABBEY HOTEL BUCCLEUCH CUP (MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE) (£2,150: 3m 1f) (13)

1 2F0/ CAPTAIN GUINNESS 765P N W Alexander 9-12-0 Mr J Alexander (7) —
2 U-PF COOLDINE CASTLE 9P F Jestin 8-12-0 .. Mr G Thomas (7) —
3 -P54 EASTLANDS HI-LIGHT 17 (G,S) J Staveley 10-12-0 Mr T Morrison (7) [illegible]
4 1131 FASTER RON 15P (F,G,S) Mrs R Elliot 8-12-0 Mr C Storey —
5 F-UU HARLEYS CALL 16P J Hughes 9-12-0 .... Mr B Gibson (3) —
6 3051 KINGS TOKEN 9P (F,G) J Walton 9-12-0 .... Mr J Walton 49
7 535 LINDON RUN 7P (F,G) F Robson 10-12-0 Mr R Morgan (7) —
8 PFU0 MURDER MOSS 17 (G,S) S Coltherd 9-12-0 Mr S Coltherd (7) 79
9 -P32 PROBE FOUNTAIN 16P W M Scott 6-12-0 Miss M Bremner (7) —
10 -313 SNAPPER 16P (S) Miss C Dawson 8-12-0 Mr C Mulhall (5) 23
11 1-PP THE DOON LINE 9P (F,G) Miss J Furness 10-12-0 Miss S Forster (7) —
12 60PP THINKABOUTTHAT 30P (F,S) J Muir 10-12-0 Mr J Muir (7) 37
13 2-12 FLORUCEVA 7 (S) B McNichol 9-11-9 Mr T Davidson (7) 90

7-4 Faster Ron, 3-1 Floruceva, 7-1 Kings Token, 8-1 Eastlands Hi-Light, 12-1 others.

3.30 ANDY SCOTT HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,762: 2m 110yd) (9)

1 31-3 ASTRO LINES 228 (C,D,G,S) F Murphy 5-11-11 A Maguire —
2 2552 LORD PODGSKI 44 (D,F,G,S) P Monteith 8-11-3 .. B Powell [illegible]
3 3013 WELL APPOINTED 17 (CD,F,G,S) B Mactaggart 10-10-13 Mr B Gibson (7) 113
4 1-24 SHINEROLLA 154 (CD,F) C Parker 7-10-5 .... D Parker 103
5 352U XAIPETE 7 (D,F,G,S) N Mason 7-10-5 .... R Guest 89
6 3061 EARP 26 (B,D,S) F Murtagh 7-10-0 .... A Dobbin 105
7 -PP0 NORTH TIPP 54 (F) J Barclay 10-10-0 .. C McCormack (3) 39
8 0064 THUNDERHEART 9 R Allan 8-10-0 .... N Horrocks (3) 96
9 000P RAWI 47F (D,G) J Charlton 6-10-0 .... B Storey 62

2-1 Well Appointed, 9-2 Lord Podgski, Shinerolla, 11-2 Xaipete, 7-1 Earp, 8-1 others.

4.00 PAT DE CLERMONT HANDICAP CHASE (£3,636: 2m 1f) (11)

1 2413 FILS DE CRESSON 12 (T,S) J Adam 9-12-0 .... B Powell 108
2 46P4 INGLETONIAN 17 (S) B Mactaggart 10-11-12 ..... B Storey 97
3 -R50 MR KNITWIT 9 (G,S) P Monteith 12-11-11 ..... R Johnson 91
4 45-1 ELPIDOS 296 (F,G,S) M Hammond 7-11-10 ..... B Harding 104
5 242P BRIAR'S DELIGHT 44 (B,BF,CD,F,G,S) R Allan 11-11-7 A Dobbin [illegible]
6 2446 LAST TRY 6 (T,F,G,S) B Rothwell 8-11-4 .... A S Smith 108
7 P36U BATTERY FIRED 6 (D,G) N Mason 10-11-3 .... R Guest 95
8 1644 LA RIVIERA 42 (F,G) J Charlton 7-11-0 .... A Maguire 95
9 P560 WEE RIVER 118 (CD,F,B,S) C Parker 10-10-9 ..... D Parker 75
10 U105 BLAZING DAWN 25 (CD,F,G,S) J Hubbuck 12-10-8 C McCormack (3) 111
11 864P POLITICAL MANDATE 7 (B) R Nixon 6-10-0 ..... S Taylor 66

5-2 Fils De Cresson, 5-1 Elpidos, Briar's Delight, 7-1 Battery Fired, 8-1 others.

4.30 PERCY ARMS HUNTERS CHASE (£2,232: 3m 1f) (8)

1 2-16 COOLE ABBEY 25 (F,G) Mrs C Moore 7-12-0 Mr A Dempsey 72
2 4-4B FAUSTINO 38 (T,F) C Storey 7-12-0 ..... Mr J Nicholl (7) —
3 63P5 FORDSTOWN 51P (F,S) N W Alexander 10-12-0 Mr J Alexander (7) 39
4 0-PP MAJIC RAIN 21 (C,D,F,G,S) Allan Dickman 14-12-0 Mr W L Morgan (7) —
5 24-2 MINERS MELODY 21 (CD,F,G,S) C Grant 11-12-0 Mrs S Grant (7) [illegible]
6 63-1 WHITBY 23 (D,S) Miss Christine Edlington 11-12-0 Mr C Mulhall (5) 66
7 1U/1 GALLANTS DELIGHT 9P (CD,F,G,S) R B Johnston 9-11-9 Mr A Robson (5) —
8 -P2U STRATHMORE LODGE 21 (F,G) K Robson 10-11-9 Mr R Morgan (7) 78

4-6 Coole Abbey, 5-1 Miners Melody, 7-1 Gallants Delight, 8-1 others.

5.00 MOET & CHANDON HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,918: 2m 6f 110yd) (13)

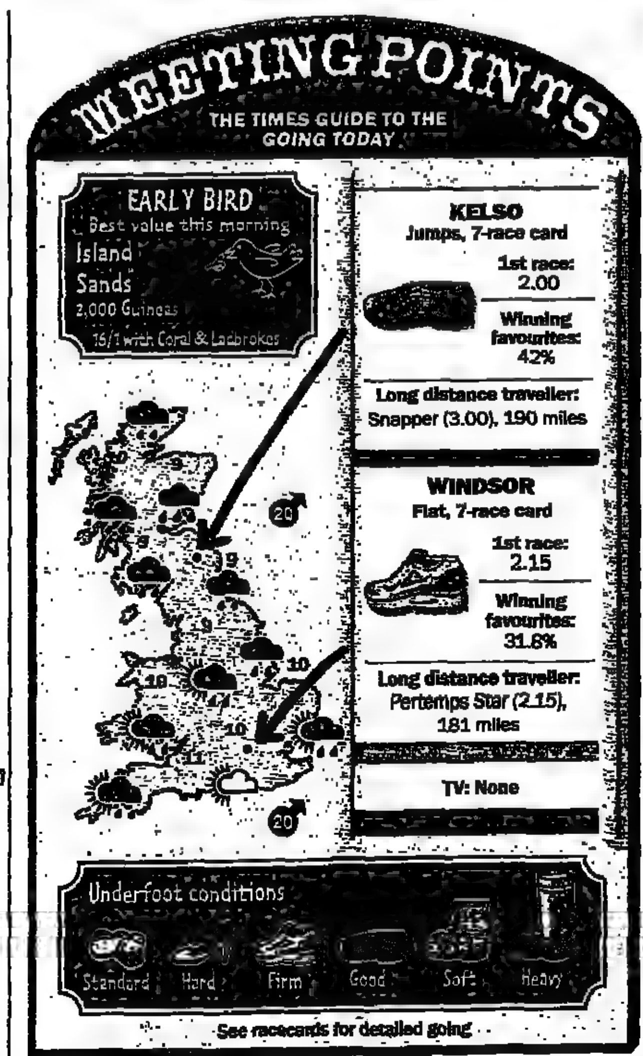
1 0462 HEART OF AVONDALE 17 (S) L Lungo 6-11-10 Mr B Gibson (7) 107
2 -115 THE MICKLETONIAN 195 (BF,F) C Grant 8-11-4 .. R Supple 108
3 45F5 CASH BOX 38 (CD,G,S) T Carr 11-11-0 .... N Smith 84
4 3114 DONNEGALE 41 (B,G,S) T Tate 7-11-0 ..... L Cooper (7) 96
5 4130 CARBURY CROSS 59 (S) J J O'Neill 5-10-11 .. R McGrath [illegible]
6 3644 MR CAVALLO 96 (D,F,G,S) Miss L Russell 7-10-9 . R Johnson 107
7 2233 ARCTIC FOX 66 (G) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-7 ..... P Niven 92
8 -000 TRUMP 51 (F,G,S) C Parker 10-10-4 .... D Parker 52
9 3U23 POLAR KING 30 C Thornton 6-10-0 .... A Dobbin 99
10 04P2 TALATHATH 41 (T,F,G,S) J Curtis 7-10-0 ..... A Maguire 102
11 P560 COMMANCHE CREEK 118 (D,F,G) A Dickens 9-10-0 .. B Powell 47
12 4035 PLANNING GAIN 31 (C,F,G) T Dun 8-10-0 .... B Storey 104
13 P0PP SMIDDY LAD 38 (T) R Shiels 8-10-0 ..... S Melrose (7) 50

4-1 The Mickletonian, 5-1 Carbury Cross, 11-2 Donnegale, 7-1 Heart Of Avondale, 8-1 Mr Cavallo, Arctic Fox, Talathath, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Hughes, 5 winners from 9 runners, 55.6%; C Thornton, 3 from 9, 33.3%; F Murphy, 5 from 16, 31.3%; J J O'Neill, 12 from 45, 26.7%; T Carr, 3 from 12, 25.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 28 from 119, 23.5%.

JOCKEYS: B Gibson, 6 winners from 17 rides, 35.3%; A Maguire, 3 from 11, 27.3%; P Niven, 30 from 114, 26.3%; R McGrath, 9 from 47, 19.1%; A Dobbin, 27 from 153, 17.6%; D Parker, 12 from 80, 15.0%.



Brightwells reach ten

THEY train just two horses, but Paul and Margaret Brightwell saddled their tenth point-to-point winner at the **Essex and Suffolk** meeting on Saturday (Carl Evans writes).

The Hadleigh-based couple sent out Commuter Country to win the hunt race, and Cracking Idea to take the ladies' open contest. Both horses have won five times this season.

Trevor Glass is a late starter in this sport, but his second victory as a rider came in yesterday's prestigious Grimthorpe Gold Cup at the **Middleton** meeting. Glass, 36, drove Overflowing River to a ten-length win from Tidaro Fairy.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Aintree

Going: good

1.45 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Kinnescash** (T J Murphy, 7-1); 2, Fadalko (8-1); 3, Wakeel (20-1). Dr Jazz (6th) 9-2 fav. 12 ran. NR: Khairabar. 1l, 2l. P Bowen. Tote: £7.60; £1.80, £3.00, £5.50. DF: £43.90. CSF: £54.12. Tricast: £964.26.

2.20 (2m ch) 1, **Flying Instructor** (J A McCarthy, 11-2); 2, Green Green Desert (4-1); 3, Celibate (3-1 fav). 7 ran. NR: Edelweis du Moulin, The Outback Way. 3½l, 5l. P Webber. Tote: £6.50; £2.70, £2.20. DF: £10.90. CSF: £23.90. Tricast: £67.16.

2.55 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Istabraq** (C F Swan, 1-2 fav); 2, French Holly (11-2); 3, Midnight Legend (33-1). 7 ran. 1l, 6l. A O'Brien. Tote: £1.60; £1.30, £2.10. DF: £2.90. CSF: £3.15.

3.45 Grand National (see above).

4.35 (3m 1f ch) 1, **Extra Stout** (Mr Anthony Martin, 6-4 fav); 2, Over The Way (6-1); 3, Rabi Crazy (14-1). 7 ran. NR: Dromore Dream, Nethertara. 2l, 1½l. A Martin. Tote: £1.90; £1.50, £3.20. DF: £7.20. CSF: £10.21.

5.15 (2m 110yd flat) 1, **King of The Castle** (L Corcoran, 7-2); 2, Errand Boy (12-1); 3, Always Wayward (50-1). Golden Alpha 13-8 fav. 17 ran. NR: Head For The Hills, Lord Sandrovitch. 4l, ½l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £5.20; £1.70, £3.00, £6.70. DF: £60.60. CSF: £43.10.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £18,637.93 carried forward to Windsor today).

Placepot: £347.90. Quadpot: £31.60.

Hamilton

Going: heavy, soft in places

1.10 1, **Top Jem** (7-2 fav); 2, Internal Affair (7-1); 3, Captain Brady (33-1); 4, Western General (6-1). 17 ran.

1.40 1, **Barringer** (5-4 fav); 2, Cautionary (9-2); 3, Kingston Bill (9-4). 6 ran.

2.10 1, **Unshaken** (3-1 fav); 2, Naissant (14-1); 3, San Michel (10-1); 4, Northern Svengali (33-1). 17 ran.

2.40 1, **Ardleigh Charmer** (6-1); 2, The Butterwick Kid (5-1 jt-fav); 3, High Pyrenees (20-1); 4, Needwood Spirit (12-1). 17 ran. NR: Brave Montgomerie.

3.05 1, **Captain Miller** (1-6 fav); 2, Encounter (33-1); 3, Republic (7-1). 6 ran.

3.35 1, **Shakdeyl** (11-8 fav); 2, Bulls (7-4); 3, Beacon Vale (50-1). 6 ran. NR: The Angel Gabriel.

Hereford

Going: good to firm

1.30 1, **Route One** (11-4); 2, Headwest (14-1); 3, Damus (100-30). 16 ran.

2.00 1, **Clifton Game** (11-8 fav); 2, Constant Husband (33-1); 3, Willie Wallace (50-1). 8 ran.

2.35 1, **Censor** (7-1); 2, Sawlajan (20-1); 3, Reflecting (5-1). Allegiance 4-1 fav. 16 ran.

3.10 1, **Glaisnock Lad** (8-1); 2, Raqib (3-1 fav); 3, Lay It Off (7-2). 11 ran.

4.20 1, **Hiear** (14-1); 2, Storm Tiger (16-1); 3, Eagle Canyon (20-1). 13 ran.

4.55 1, **Against The Agent** (11-8 fav); 2, Flying Maria (9-4); 3, Dalametre (20-1). 12 ran.

5.25 1, **Sea Tarth** (5-1); 2, Emphatic (12-1); 3, Pennyahei (8-1). Another Chance 100-30 fav. 12 ran.

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

7.00 1, **Tipsy** (7-1); 2, Adulation (6-4 fav); 3, Turtle (11-2). 12 ran.

7.30 1, **Trojan Girl** (10-11 fav); 2, Krystal Max (3-1); 3, Semper (11-2). 8 ran.

8.00 1, **Time Can Tell** (8-1); 2, Quezon City (11-10 fav); 3, Coleridge (8-1). 12 ran. NR: Mrs Pickles.

8.30 1, **Welville** (2-1 fav); 2, Thekryaati (5-1); 3, King Priam (13-2). 8 ran.

9.00 1, **Hannibal Lad** (4-5 fav); 2, Billichang (12-1); 3, Season of Hope (14-1). 5 ran.

9.30 1, **Make Ready** (20-1); 2, John Bowdler Music (7-2); 3, Moy (50-1). Kass Alhawa 5-2 fav. 13 ran.

JUMPS LEADERS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Runs since win	Level stakes
M Pipe	144	89	83	4	-162.67
P Nicholls	93	74	29	4	+5.79
Mrs M Reveley	91	67	58	6	-39.56
P Hobbs	78	67	49	4	-8.66
Miss V Williams	67	34	35	3	-19.41
D Nicholson	67	65	61	3	-54.41
N Henderson	65	46	37	5	-25.90
N Twiston-Davies	52	61	50	3	-76.83
L Lungo	49	34	18	23	-3.09
Mrs J Pitman	40	26	25	2	+17.72
R Alner	39	33	27	2	-29.77
J J O'Neill	34	40	30	9	-34.16
C Mann	34	32	28	5	-4.84

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
A P McCoy	150	94	65	9	-122.37
R Johnson	114	113	108	7	-85.99
M A Fitzgerald	110	61	68	15	-7.31
R Dunwoody	102	66	57	3	-56.86
N Williamson	102	66	61	6	+2.96
J Tizzard	71	56	42	6	-38.66
A Maguire	70	52	57	6	-98.48
T J Murphy	67	44	38	3	+158.17
C Llewellyn	65	69	68	3	-144.56
W Marston	56	56	54	3	-51.29
A Dobbin	55	54	54	4	-116.68
R Supple	47	36	29	7	-59.61
S Durack	47	42	59	63	-135.44

THE FA CUP (AXA)

SEMI-FINALS

MAN UTD (0) 0 **ARSENAL** (0) 0
39,217

Sent off: N Vivas (Arsenal) 95

Manchester Utd: P Schmeichel, G Neville, D Irwin (sub: P Neville 84min), J Stam, R Johnsen, D Beckham, N Butt, A Cole (sub: P Scholes 112), R Keane, D Yorke, R Giggs (sub: O G Solskjaer 98).

Booked: G Neville, Irwin.

Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, N Winterburn, P Vieira, T Adams, N Vivas, N Anelka (sub: N Kanu 98), D Bergkamp, M Overmars (sub: F Ljungberg 90), M Keown, R Parlour.

Booked: Vivas, Parlour.

Referee: D Elleray.

Replay Date: Wednesday 14 April, Villa Park (k.o. 7.45pm)

NEWCASTLE (0) 2 **TOTTENHAM** (0) 0
Shearer 109 (pen), 118 — 53,609

Newcastle United: S Given, A Griffin, D Hamann, N Solano (sub: D Ferguson 75min), A Shearer, R Lee, W Barton, T Ketsbaia (sub: S Maric 105), G Speed, S Howey (sub: A Hughes 36), N Dabizas.

Booked: Griffin, Maric.

Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, S Carr, S Freund, D Anderton (sub: A Sinton 50; sub: A Nielsen 83), L Ferdinand, C Armstrong, D Ginola (sub: S Iversen 75), M Taricco, S Campbell, T Sherwood, L Young.

Booked: Sinton, Taricco, Campbell, Young.

Referee: P Durkin.



FIRST DIVISION

BARNSLEY (0) 1 **TRANMERE** (1) 1
Dyer 54 — Irons 29
15,133
Sent off: C Hill (Tranmere) 45

BRADFORD (2) 2 **PORTSMOUTH** (0) 1
Mills 25, Sharpe 36 — Durnin 67
13,552

BRISTOL CITY (2) 4 **GRIMSBY** (1) 1
Torpey 21, Hutchings 43, 62, Thorpe 55 — Ashcroft 13
11,616

CREWE (0) 0 **PORT VALE** (0) 0
5,606

OXFORD UTD (0) 0 **BURY** (1) 1
6,358 — Lilley 29

QPR (1) 2 **WEST BROM** (1) 1
Ready 45, Peacock 67 — Kilbane 45
11,159

STOCKPORT (0) 1 **SHEFFIELD UTD** (0) 0
Mathews 46 — 7,551

SUNDERLAND (2) 2 **HUDDERSFIELD** (0) 0
Quinn 28, Johnston 41 — 41,074

SWINDON (0) 0 **BIRMINGHAM** (0) 1
8,698 — Rowett 83

WATFORD (1) 2 **BOLTON** (0) 0
Hyde 24, Mooney 53 — 13,001

WOLVES (0) 0 **CRYSTAL PALACE** (0) 0
23,643

Yesterday

NORWICH (0) 0 **IPSWICH** (0) 0
19,511

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKPOOL (1) 2 **READING** (0) 0
Aldridge 31 (pen), Clarkson 47 — 3,617

COLCHESTER (1) 1 **WALSALL** (0) 0
Greene 45 — 4,082

FULHAM (0) 2 **WIGAN** (0) 0
Albert 58, Symons 64 — 12,140

MACCLESFIELD (0) 3 **PRESTON** (1) 2
Askey 50, Durkan 63, Wood 65 — Basham 35, 68
4,325

MAN CITY (2) 4 **LINCOLN** (0) 0
Dickov 34, 45, 48, Horlock 63 — 26,296

NORTHAMPTON (1) 1 **LUTON** (0) 0
Corazzin 34 — 6,858

NOTTS COUNTY (1) 2 **CHESTERFIELD** (0) 0
Owers 45, Stallard 90 — 5,121
Sent off: J Lee (Chesterfield) 61

OLDHAM (1) 1 **BURNLEY** (0) 1
Tipton 37 — Payton 52
8,542

STOKE (1) 1 **BRISTOL R** (0) 4
Thorne 41 — Roberts 53, Foster 81, Cureton 84, 88
17,823

WREXHAM (0) 0 **WYCOMBE** (0) 2
2,450 — Carroll 70, McSporran 88

YORK (0) 2 **MILLWALL** (0) 1
Rowe 87, Thompson 90 — Shaw 71
2,572

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Gillingham 2 Bournemouth 1.

THIRD DIVISION

BARNET (0) 1 **SCARBOROUGH** (0) 0
King 48 — 1,679

CAMBRIDGE U (0) 4 **HALIFAX** (0) 0
Walling 51, Wanless 67, Butler 83, Taylor 87 — 4,838

CARLISLE (1) 1 **PETERBOROUGH** (0) 1
Brightwell 39 — Scott 88
3,064

DARLINGTON (0) 0 **TORQUAY** (2) 2
2,249 — Bedeau 6, Williams 45
Sent off: P Heckingbottom (Darlington) 85

HARTLEPOOL (1) 2 **CHESTER** (0) 0
Freestone 32, Jones 50 — 2,413

HULL (1) 2 **EXETER** (0) 1
Williams 43, Alcide 90 — McConnell 53
5,836

LEYTON ORIENT (0) 1 **CARDIFF** (1) 1
Eckhardt 49 (og) — Williams 40
5,238

MANSFIELD (0) 0 **SOUTHEND** (0) 0
2,624
Sent off: M Booty (Southend) 28

PLYMOUTH (1) 1 **BRIGHTON** (1) 2
Gibbs 42 — Hart 6, Morales 75
4,911

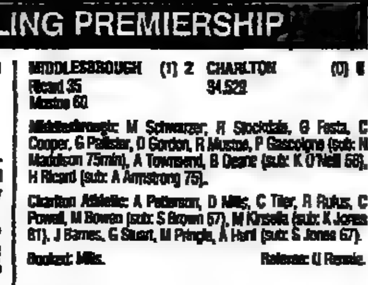
ROCHDALE (0) 0 **ROTHERHAM** (0) 0
2,516

SCUNTHORPE (0) 0 **BRENTFORD** (0) 0
5,604

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Swansea 1 Shrewsbury 1.

VERNONS LOTTERY FOOTBALL GAME

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S MATCHES: There were five score draws: Oldham v Burnley; Carlisle v Peterborough, Leyton Orient v Cardiff; Inverness [illegible] v Stirling; Partick v East Fife. Payouts on five score draws. This weeks confirmed pay out for: Five score draws: 43 winners each £2,171.50.



FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ASTON VILLA (1) 3 **SOUTHAMPTON** (0) 0
Draper 13, Joachim 66, Dublin 89 — 32,203
Sent off: C Lundekvam (Southampton) 40

Aston Villa: M Bosnich, S Watson, C Calderwood, G Southgate, A Wright, S Stone, M Draper (sub: P Merson 57min), I Taylor, A Thompson (sub: L Hendrie 5), D Dublin (sub: G Barry 89), J Joachim.

Southampton: N Moss, S Hiley, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, P Colleter (sub: D Hirst 72), D Hughes, J Dodd, C Marsden, M Le Tissier, M Hughes (sub: F Benali 53), E Ostenstad (sub: S Ripley 85).

Booked: Lundekvam, Monkou.

Referee: N Barry.

DERBY (0) 1 **NOTTM FOREST** (0) 0
Carbonari 85 — 32,217
Sent off: R Gough (Nottingham Forest) 79; R Hoult (Derby County) 60

Derby County: R Hoult, S Prior, H Carbonari, J Laursen, V Borbokis (sub: D Sturridge 16min), D Powell, L Bohinen, F Baiano (sub: K Harper 46), [illegible], P Wanchope, D Burton (sub: M Poom 60).

Nottingham Forest: M Crossley, M Jean, R Gough, C Edwards, T Bonalair, A Johnson, C Palmer, A Rogers, P van Hooijdonk (sub: N Shipperley 76), D Freedman, M Harewood (sub: S Chettle 79).

Booked: Johnson, Rogers, Edwards, Harewood, Gough.

Referee: G Barber.

LEICESTER (0) 0 **WEST HAM** (0) 0
20,402

Leicester City: K Keller, F [illegible], M Elliott, R Ullathorne, A Impey (sub: G Miller 63min), R Savage, N Lennon, A Gunnlaugsson (sub: I Marshall 63), S Guppy, E Heskey, A Cottee.

West Ham: S Hislop, N [illegible], I Pearce, S Potts, T Sinclair, S Lomas, E Berkovic, F Lampard, S Minto, P Di Canio (sub: J Moncur 66), P Kitson (sub: I Wright 72).

Referee: J Winter.

MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 2 **CHARLTON** (0) 0
Ricard 35, Mustoe 60 — 34,529

Middlesbrough: M Schwarzer, R Stockdale, G Festa, C Cooper, G Pallister, D Gordon, R Mustoe, P Gascoigne (sub: N Maddison 75min), A Townsend, B Deane (sub: K O'Neill 58), H Ricard (sub: A Armstrong 75).

Charlton Athletic: A Petterson, D Mills, C Tiler, R Rufus, C Powell, M Bowen (sub: S Brown 67), M Kinsella (sub: K Jones 81), J Barnes, G Stuart, M Pringle, A Hunt (sub: S Jones 67).

Booked: Mills. **Referee:** U Rennie.

Yesterday

EVERTON (1) 2 **COVENTRY** (0) 0
Campbell 29, 88 — 32,341
Sent off: M Materazzi (Everton) 84

Everton: T Myhre, D Weir, C Short, D Watson, M Ball, O Dacourt, S Gemmill, N Barmby, M Materazzi, F Jeffers (sub: A Grant 86min), K Campbell.

Booked: Gemmill, Myhre, Dacourt, Materazzi, Barmby.

Coventry City: M Hedman, P Telfer (sub: J Aloisi 15), R Shaw, G Breen, D Burrows, G McAllister, G Boateng, T E Soltvedt, P Williams, D Huckerby, N Whelan.

Booked: Boateng, Huckerby.

Referee: R Harris.

WIMBLEDON (0) 1 **CHELSEA** (1) 2
Gayle 90 — Flo 24, Poyet 53
21,577

Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, B Thatcher (sub: C Leaburn 78min), C Hughes, A Roberts, M Gayle, M Hughes (sub: G Ainsworth 46), J Euell, J Hartson (sub: C Cort 71).

Booked: M Hughes, Roberts.

Chelsea: E De Goey, D Petrescu (sub: E Newton 86), F Leboeuf, B Goldbaek, G Poyet, M Duberry, G Le Saux, R Di Matteo (sub: J Morris 46), T A Flo, B Lambourde, G Zola (sub: M Nicholls 90).

Booked: Duberry. **Referee:** G Willard

SCOTLAND

TENNENT'S CUP SEMI-FINAL

CELTIC (2) 2 **DUNDEE UTD** (0) 0
Blinker 30, Viduka 39 — 43,691

BANK OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE SPL

KILMARNOCK (2) 4 **ABERDEEN** (1) 2
Mahood 9, MacPherson 19, McCutcheon 86, 90 — Winters 2, Hamilton 52
9,048

MOTHERWELL (1) 1 **DUNDEE** (0) 2
Spencer 2 — Falconer 65, Grady 73
5,717
Sent off: T Thomas (Motherwell) 44

FIRST DIVISION

AIRDRIE (1) 1 **FALKIRK** (2) 2
Taylor 43 (pen) — Keith 13, Corrigan 28
1,941

CLYDEBANK (0) 0 **HAMILTON** (0) 0
262

RAITH (1) 1 **HIBERNIAN** (1) 3
Holmes 29 — Latapy 12, Dennis 52, Marinkov 84
5,740
Sent off: P McGinley (Hibernian) 25

ST MIRREN (1) 1 **GK MORTON** (2) 5
Yardley 37 — Thomas 11, 42, 84 (pen), Wright 61, 73
3,538
Sent off: J Anderson (Greenock Morton) 57

STRANRAER (0) 0 **AYR** (1) 2
610 — Hurst 20, 86

SECOND DIVISION

ALLOA (1) 1 **ARBROATH** (0) 2
Simpson 39 — Arbuckle 54, Sellars 62
505
Sent off: C Hinchcliffe (Arbroath) 69; M Cameron (Alloa) 69

FORFAR (1) 2 **QUEEN OF SOUTH** (0) 1
Nairn 5, McLean 70 — Rowe 83
416

INVERNESS C (0) 2 **STIRLING** (0) 2
Sheerin 78, 89 — Bone 49, 90
1,778

LIVINGSTON (0) 2 **CLYDE** (0) 0
McPhee 46, King 68 — 2,130

PARTICK (1) 2 **EAST FIFE** (0) 2
Howdon 32, Ardila 71 — Kirk 73, Robertson 87
1,811

THIRD DIVISION

BRECHIN (2) 3 **ALBION** (0) 1
Bain 1, 44, Dickson 47 — Hamilton 61
291
Sent off: R Greenock (Albion) 85

COWDENBEATH (1) 2 **DUMBARTON** (0) 1
Stewart 28, Milne 84 — Smith 75
307

EAST STIRLING (2) 3 **BERWICK** (2) 3
Laidlaw 6, Patterson 25, Walker 85 — Leask 3, D Smith 8, 66
225

QUEEN'S PARK (0) 1 **MONTROSE** (2) 2
K Finlayson 49 — Whelan 10 (og), Magee 41
413

STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 3 **ROSS COUNTY** (1) 2
Gibson 73, Banks 87, Watters 90 — Kinnaird 30, Wood 75
840

GOALSCORERS

BANK OF SCOTLAND PREMIER LEAGUE: 37: H Larsson (Celtic). 22: R Wallace (Rangers). 18: J Albertz (Rangers). 16: J Johansson (Rangers). 15: B Dodds (Dundee Utd, 3 for Aberdeen).

Includes all competitions

Nationwide FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

HEDNESFORD (0) 1 **BARROW** (0) 0
Brindley 61 — 794

LEEK (0) 1 **HAYES** (2) 4
Hawtin 64 — Flynn 35, 36, Moore 83, B Hodson 87
465

MORECAMBE (0) 2 **[illegible]** (1) 1
Drummond 7, Talano 30 — Hadley 44
986

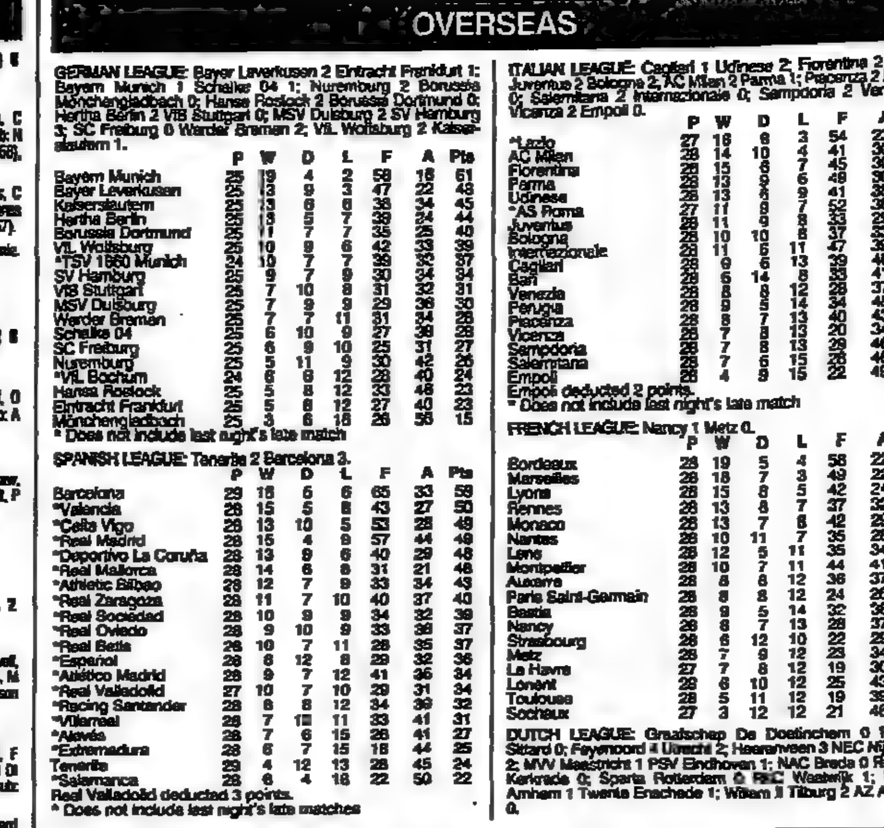
NORTHWICH (1) 1 **TELFORD** (1) 1
Illman 35 — [illegible] 42
1,008

STEVENAGE (0) 1 **DOVER** (0) 0
Alford 84 — 1,458

WELLING (2) 2 **SOUTHPORT** (1) 1
Rowe 21, Browne 38 — Trundle 28
502

WOKING (3) 4 **FARNBOROUGH** (0) 0
Perkins 18, Hollingdale 25, Bolt 34 (pen), Hay 60 — 2,101

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
		HOME					AWAY					
Cheltenham	36	9	7	1	30	11	11	5	3	34	18	72
Kettering	40	11	5	5	31	16	9	5	5	24	20	70
Rushden	37	10	3	4	35	18	9	8	3	28	17	68
Hayes	38	10	3	6	30	23	10	4	5	28	23	67
Yeovil	35	7	4	7	32	28	9	7	1	23	15	59
Stevenage	37	7	9	2	28	21	7	7	5	30	19	58
Woking	38	8	5	6	24	19	8	4	7	22	19	57
Kingstonian	36	9	7	3	25	16	6	5	6	22	26	57
Northwich	36	9	3	6	25	18	7	5	6	26	24	56
Hednesford	37	9	6	3	27	20	5	8	6	18	19	56
Dover	39	7	8	4	26	19	7	4	9	26	27	54
Forest Green	35	8	3	6	24	16	5	7	6	25	23	49
Hereford	39	8	4	7	22	15	5	5	10	23	29	48
Morecambe	38	8	5	7	30	29	5	2	11	24	42	46
Kidderminstr	38	8	4	7	27	20	4	5	10	23	27	45
Doncaster	38	7	4	8	24	23	4	7	8	23	26	44
Telford	38	6	8	5	23	22	3	7	9	19	32	42
Southport	37	5	9	5	26	26	3	6	9	16	29	39
Barrow	38	7	5	8	16	21	2	4	12	18	37	36
Welling	38	3	7	10	15	28	4	5	9	22	33	33
Leek Town	37	5	5	8	30	31	3	3	13	13	29	32
Farnborough	39	5	5	9	28	47	1	6	13	12	40	29



OVERSEAS

GERMAN LEAGUE: Bayer Leverkusen 2 Eintracht Frankfurt 1; Bayern Munich 1 Schalke 04 1; Nuremburg 2 Borussia Mönchengladbach 0; Hansa Rostock 2 Borussia Dortmund 0; Hertha Berlin 2 VfB Stuttgart 0; MSV Duisburg 2 SV Hamburg 3; SC Freiburg 0 Werder Bremen 2; VfL Wolfsburg 2 Kaiserslautern 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	25	19	4	2	58	18	61
Bayer Leverkusen	25	13	9	3	47	22	48
Kaiserslautern	25	13	6	6	38	34	45
Hertha Berlin	25	13	5	7	38	24	44
Borussia Dortmund	25	11	7	7	35	25	40
VfL Wolfsburg	25	10	9	6	42	33	39
*TSV 1860 Munich	24	10	7	7	39	32	37
SV Hamburg	25	9	7	9	30	34	34
VfB Stuttgart	25	7	10	8	31	32	31
MSV Duisburg	25	7	9	9	29	38	30
Werder Bremen	25	7	7	11	31	34	28
Schalke 04	25	6	10	9	27	38	28
SC Freiburg	25	6	9	10	25	31	27
Nuremburg	25	5	11	9	30	42	26
*VfL Bochum	24	6	6	12	28	40	24
Hansa Rostock	25	5	8	12	33	48	23
Eintracht Frankfurt	25	5	8	12	27	40	23
Mönchengladbach	25	3	6	16	26	55	15

* Does not include last night's late match

SPANISH LEAGUE: Tenerife 2 Barcelona 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	29	18	5	6	65	33	59
*Valencia	28	15	5	8	43	27	50
*Celta Vigo	28	13	10	5	53	28	49
*Real Madrid	28	15	4	9	57	44	49
*Deportivo La Coruña	28	13	9	6	40	29	48
*Real Mallorca	28	14	6	8	31	21	48
*Athletic Bilbao	28	12	7	9	33	34	43
*Real Zaragoza	28	11	7	10	40	37	40
*Real Sociedad	28	10	9	9	34	32	39
*Real Oviedo	28	9	10	9	33	38	37
*Real Betis	28	10	7	11	28	35	37
*Español	28	8	12	8	29	32	36
*Atlético Madrid	28	9	7	12	41	36	34
*Real Valladolid	27	10	7	10	29	31	34
*Racing Santander	28	8	8	12	34	39	32
*Villarreal	28	7	10	11	33	41	31
*Alavés	28	7	6	15	26	41	27
*Extremadura	28	6	7	15	18	44	25
Tenerife	29	4	12	13	28	45	24
*Salamanca	28	6	4	18	22	50	22

Real Valladolid deducted 3 points.
* Does not include last night's late matches

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Cagliari 1 Udinese 2; Fiorentina 2 Bari 2; Juventus 2 Bologna 2; AC Milan 2 Parma 1; Piacenza 2 Perugia 0; Salernitana 2 Internazionale 0; Sampdoria 2 Venezia 1; Vicenza 2 Empoli 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*Lazio	27	18	6	3	54	23	56
AC Milan	28	14	10	4	41	30	52
Fiorentina	28	15	6	7	45	30	51
Parma	28	13	9	6	48	30	48
Udinese	28	13	6	9	41	38	45
*AS Roma	27	11	9	7	52	36	42
Juventus	28	11	9	8	33	29	42
Bologna	28	10	10	8	37	33	40
Internazionale	28	11	6	11	47	39	39
Cagliari	28	9	6	13	39	40	33
Bari	28	6	14	8	33	41	32
Venezia	28	8	8	12	28	37	32
Perugia	28	9	5	14	34	48	32
Piacenza	28	8	7	13	40	43	31
Vicenza	28	7	8	13	20	34	29
Sampdoria	28	7	8	13	29	46	29
Salernitana	28	7	6	15	28	46	27
Empoli	28	4	9	15	22	49	19

Empoli deducted 2 points.
* Does not include last night's late match

FRENCH LEAGUE: Nancy 1 Metz 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bordeaux	28	19	5	4	58	22	62
Marseilles	28	18	7	3	49	22	61
Lyons	28	15	8	5	42	24	53
Rennes	28	13	8	7	37	32	47
Monaco	28	13	7	8	42	29	46
Nantes	28	10	11	7	35	28	41
Lens	28	12	5	11	35	34	41
Montpellier	28	10	7	11	44	41	37
Auxerre	28	8	8	12	36	37	32
Paris Saint-Germain	28	8	8	12	24	26	32
Bastia	28	9	5	14	32	38	32
Nancy	28	8	7	13	28	37	31
Strasbourg	28	6	12	10	22	29	30
Metz	28	7	9	12	23	34	30
Le Havre	27	7	8	12	19	30	29
Lorient	28	6	10	12	25	43	28
Toulouse	28	5	11	12	19	39	26
Sochaux	27	3	12	12	21	46	21

DUTCH LEAGUE: Graafschap De Doetinchem 0 Fortuna Sittard 0; Feyenoord [illegible] Utrecht 2; Heerenveen 3 NEC Nijmegen 2; MVV Maastricht 1 PSV Eindhoven 1; NAC Breda 0 Roda JC Kerkrade 0; Sparta Rotterdam [illegible] RKC Waalwijk 1; Vitesse Arnhem 1 Twente Enschede 1; Willem II Tilburg 2 AZ Alkmaar 0.



David Honeychurch, centre, of Old Salopians, is closed down by two Lancing players in the final of the Arthur Dunn Cup on Saturday. Old Salopians beat Lancing 3-1 in the competition for old boys' teams of public schools that was first played in 1902. Phil Westerman put Salopians ahead in the first half with a looping header, but Ian Brown-Peterside pulled the scores level after the interval with a low shot across the goalkeeper. Piers Curran restored the lead with a back-heeled effort after good work on the left from man-of-the-match David Cookson. Scott Ellis completed the scoring with a goal from the edge of the penalty area. Photograph: Tom Hevezi

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Accrington Stanley 3 Marine 2; Altrincham 1 Bamber Bridge 1; Colwyn Bay 3 Gainsborough 4; Emley 0 Whitby 1; Guiseley 1 Lancaster 0; Leigh RMI 0 Frickley 1; Runcorn 1 Bishop Auckland 0; Spennymoor 2 Hyde 0; Stalybridge 4 Blyth Spartans 0; Worksop 2 Gateshead 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Altrincham	38	20	11	7	62	31	71
Worksop	38	21	8	9	58	41	71
Guiseley	36	20	6	10	58	38	66
Bamber Bridge	40	18	15	9	59	46	63
Gateshead	39	17	11	11	68	53	62
Gainsborough	38	17	7	14	58	54	58
Hyde Utd	38	16	9	13	58	43	57
Whitby Town	36	15	11	10	66	55	56
Winsford Utd	38	14	13	11	51	44	55
Stalybridge	38	14	11	13	67	58	53
Leigh RMI	36	13	14	9	56	49	53
Marine	40	10	16	14	59	64	46
Blyth Spartans	39	13	7	19	49	60	46
Bishop Auck	42	10	15	17	49	67	45
Frickley	37	10	14	13	49	59	44
Spennymoor	37	12	8	17	50	64	44
Emley	35	10	13	12	39	42	43
Colwyn Bay	36	11	10	15	51	61	43
Runcorn	35	9	15	11	35	44	42
Lancaster	39	10	12	17	47	59	42
Chorley	39	7	14	18	44	67	35
Accrington S	38	8	6	24	40	72	30

FIRST DIVISION: Alfreton 2 Bradford PA 2; Ashton 1 Matlock Town 0; Belper Town 2 Congleton 1; Burscough 1 Stocksbridge PS 2; Eastwood Town 1 Gretna 0; Farsley Celtic 1 Harrogate Town 2; Flixton 2 Whitley Bay 0; Great Harwood 0 Droylsden 1; Lincoln 5 Trafford 3; Radcliffe 1 Netherfield Kendal 1; Witton 0 Hucknall 2.

DR MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: Bath 2 Rothwell 0; Bromsgrove 0 Burton 0; Crawley 2 Gresley 0; Dorchester 2 Atherstone 1; Grantham 1 Tamworth 2; Halesowen 2 Cambridge City 1; Ilkeston 3 Hastings 3; Merthyr 0 King's Lynn 1; Nuneaton 2 Gloucester 0; Salisbury 0 Boston 0; Worcester 3 Weymouth 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton	39	25	7	6	87	31	85
Ilkeston Tn	38	17	12	9	65	48	63
Gloucester City	38	17	11	11	51	46	62
Boston Utd	36	14	14	8	59	38	56
Worcester City	38	18	8	14	50	47	56
Salisbury	38	15	11	12	51	54	56
Bath City	37	15	10	12	54	39	55
Halesowen	38	15	10	13	63	54	55
Hastings	37	15	10	12	47	43	55
Crawley Town	37	15	10	12	51	49	55
Tamworth	36	17	4	15	55	57	55
King's Lynn	38	15	8	15	49	45	53
Weymouth	38	13	12	13	52	51	51
Burton Albion	38	14	7	17	48	49	49
Grantham	38	14	7	17	49	53	49
Atherstone	36	12	11	13	46	44	47
Merthyr	39	13	7	19	46	59	46
Dorchester	39	10	14	15	47	55	44
Gresley Rovers	37	12	6	19	44	64	42
Cambridge City	37	9	11	17	39	60	38
Rothwell Town	36	10	8	18	37	60	38
Bromsgrove	39	6	6	25	35	77	30

MIDLAND DIVISION: Bilston 3 Shepshed Dynamo 2; Blakenall 2 Bedworth 0; Cinderford 0 Sutton Coldfield Town 1; Moor Green 1 Weston-super-Mare 2; Paget 6 Bloxwich 0; RC Warwick 0 Hinckley 2; Solihull Boro 2 Clevedon 0; Stamford AFC 3 Stafford 0; Stourbridge 3 Redditch 3; VS Rugby 0 Evesham 2; Wisbech 0 Newport AFC 3. SOUTHERN DIVISION: Bashley 0 Fisher London 1. Chelmsford 4 Andover 0; Dartford 0 Witney 0; Erith and Belvedere 0 Cirencester 1; Fleet 0 Tonbridge Angels 1; Folkestone Invicta 4 Corby 1; Margate 2 Havant and Waterlooville 0; Raunds 2 Newport IoW 0; Sittingbourne 0 Brackley 0; St Leonards 1 Baldock 0; Yate 1 Ashford 0.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bournemouth 4 Gillingham 2; Brighton 2 Brentford 3; Luton 2 Oxford Utd 1; Wycombe 1 Colchester Utd 2.

PREMIER DIVISION. Aylesbury 1 Sutton 4;

RYMAN

Basingstoke 3 Purfleet 2; Boreham Wood 1 Aldershot 1; Bromley 0 Hampton 0; Dag and Red 1 Bishop's Stortford 1; Dulwich 3 Hendon 1; Enfield 2 Slough 1; Harrow 3 Billericay 3; Heybridge 3 Gravesend [illegible]; Walton and Hersham 9 Chesham 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sutton Utd	36	24	5	7	77	35	77
Aylesbury	37	22	7	8	63	34	73
Purfleet	39	21	6	12	69	46	69
Enfield	37	19	7	11	66	44	64
Dag & Red	37	18	10	9	61	41	64
Billericay Tn	39	15	13	11	53	49	58
St Albans	35	15	12	8	61	46	57
Gravesend	36	16	4	16	49	45	52
Boreham Wood	38	13	13	12	51	57	52
Basingstoke	35	14	9	12	54	46	51
Aldershot Tn	35	13	11	11	71	37	50
Harrow Boro	37	14	8	15	59	59	50
Hendon	35	13	9	13	56	56	48
Slough	37	13	9	15	49	49	48
Dulwich	39	13	7	19	50	60	46
Chesham	34	13	6	15	51	65	45
Heybridge	36	11	8	17	45	71	41
Hampton	39	9	11	19	35	69	38
Walton & H	38	10	7	21	45	73	37
Bromley	35	8	11	16	46	57	35
Carshalton	37	8	8	21	39	75	32
Bishop's S	37	7	9	21	45	84	30

FIRST DIVISION: Berkhamsted 2 Whyteleafe 1; Canvey Island 4 Wealdstone 2; Grays 2 Barton 2; Hitchin 0 Croydon 1; Leatherhead 2 Yeading 0; Maidenhead 0 Chertsey 0; Molesey 2 Braintree 1; Staines 1 Bognor Regis 1; Uxbridge 2 Leyton Pennant 2; Wembley 4 Oxford City 1; Worthing 3 Romford 0. Second division: Abingdon Town 1 Northwood 4; Banstead 1 Wokingham 3; Barking 4 Tooting and Mitcham 3; Bedford Town 1 Witham 0; Bracknell 3 Hertford 1; Edgware 0 Horsham 2; Hemel Hempstead 0 Thame 0; Marlow 0 Leighton 0; Met Police 1 Chalfont St Peter 1; Windsor and Eton 0 Harlow 1; Wivenhoe 2 Hungerford 2. Third division: Aveley 0 Croydon 1; Egham 0 Epsom and Ewell 2; Ford 4 Corinthian-Casuals 1; Hornchurch 0 East Thurrock 2; Kingsbury 1 Clapton 2; Lewes 3 Tring 1; Southall 2 Camberley 0; Tilbury 1 Flackwell Heath 1; Ware 4 Dorking 2; Wingate and Finchley 0 Cheshunt 0.

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-19: Crewe 0 Wimbledon 0. Under-17: Crewe 0 Wimbledon 2. Play-offs: Under 19: Chelsea 3 Derby 2; Crystal Palace 1 Middlesbrough 2; Fulham 5 Norwich 0; Nottm Forest 3 Southampton 0; Sheff Wed 2 QPR 0; West Ham 1 Bolton 1. 17: Arsenal 2 Derby 0; Blackburn 4 Peterborough 0; Leeds 4 Charlton 1; Liverpool 2 Millwall 0; Sheff Wed 3 Southampton 1; Sunderland 2 Fulham 1; Tottenham 0 Man City 2; West Ham 2 Aston Villa 3.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bandon 0 Kington 3; Bustleholme 2 Brierley Hill 1; Cradley 4 Tividale 1; Dudley Town 2 Ludlow 2; Ettingshall 2 Tipton 1; Malvern 0 Star 2; Stafford 0 Darlaston 4; Walsall Wood 5 Gornal 1; Westfields 0 Smethwick 2; Wolverhampton Casuals 0 Lye 0.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell 3 Pelsall Villa 1; Boldmere St Michaels 0 Rocester 1; Chasetown 4 Shifnal T 0; Knypersley 3 West Midlands Police 1; Rushall Olympic 0 Bridgnorth 1; Sandwell 2 Pershore 6; Stourport 0 Kings Norton 3; Stratford 1 Oldbury 2; Willenhall 5 Halesowen Harriers 1.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Arlesey 3 Haringey 1; Barkingside 0 Hoddesdon 1; Brache Sparta 7 Brimsdown 0; Islington St Mary's 0 London Colney 4; Milton Keynes 2 Brook House 1; Potters Bar 4 Harpenden 0; Ruislip Manor 6 Somersett Ambury 0; St Margaretsbury 2 Hillingdon 2; Waltham Abbey 3 Buckingham Athletic 0; Welwyn Garden 1 New Bradwell St Peter 1. Postponed: Toddington v Beaconsfield Sycob.

FA UMBRO TROPHY

SEMI-FINAL, first leg: Kingstonian 2 Cheltenham 2; St Albans 1 Forest Green 1.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: AFC Wallingford 0 Sandhurst 0; Ash 3 Raynes Park Vale 4; Chessington and Hook 1 Hartley Wintney 0; Cranleigh 2 Walton Casuals 4; Feltham 2 Farnham 0; Netherne 1 Cove 5; Viking Sports 4 Chipstead 1; Westfield 1 Reading 1. Premier Challenge Cup: Ashford (Middx) 2 Meatham 0; Cobham 2 Bedfont 0.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Bootle 0 Vauxhall G M 2; Clitheroe 4 Atherton LR 0; Glossop North End 5 Holker Old Boys 0; Prescot Cables 0 Nantwich 2; Ramsbottom 0 Newcastle Town 5; Rossendale 3 Kidsgrove 3; St Helens 4 Leek CS OB 0; Skelmersdale 2 Mossley 2; Workington 5 Salford 0.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Synthonia 0 Chester-le-Street 1; Consett 3 South Shields 1; Crook 0 Morpeth 1; Easington 0 Jarrow Roofing 3; Newcastle Blue Star 0 Bedlington Terriers 3; Penrith 2 Guisborough 0; Seaham Red Star 3 Marske 1; Shildon 1 Dunston Federation 5; Stockton 3 Billingham Town 2; West Auckland 1 Tow Law 1.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon 3 Shortwood 0; Almondsbury 4 Bicester 4; Burnham 2 Carterton 0; Fairford 0 North Leigh 0; Kintbury 0 Highworth 2; Swindon Supermarine 2 Banbury 1; Wantage 3 Harrow Hill 0.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch 2 Handrahan Timbers 1; Coleshill 1 Continental Star 2; Dudley Sports 0 Cheslyn Hay 3; Kenilworth 1 Bilston Community College 0; Massey Ferguson 0 Studley BKL 0; Southam 5 GPT (Coventry) 2. Presidents Cup: semi-final: Knowle 0 Alvis 2. Challenge Cup: fourth round: Alveston 3 Kings Heath 0; Highgate 1 Coventry Sphinx 1.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ely 0 Great Yarmouth 2; Felixstowe Port and Town 0 Fakenham 0; Halstead 1 Wroxham 3; Harwich and Parkeston 0 Lowestoft 2; Newmarket 0 Maldon 3; Soham 2 Histon 3; Warboys 2 Sudbury Town 1; Watton 1 Sudbury Wanderers 3; Woodbridge 1 Stowmarket 1.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: BAT 0 Hamble ASSC 0; Bemerton Heath 3 Portsmouth 0; Christchurch 2 Alc Newbury 0; Downton 0 Brockenhurst 2; Fareham 2 East Cowes 1; Lymington and New Milton 2 Totton 0; Money Fields 4 Gosport 3; Thatcham 0 Bournemouth 2; Whitchurch 0 Eastleigh 2; Wimborne 0 Cowes Sports 0.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold 4 Armthorpe Welfare 2; Brigg 3 Selby 2; Denaby 4 Ossett Albion 0; Eccleshill 1 Pontefract Cols 2; Garforth 0 Hallam 4; Liversedge 3 North Ferriby 0; Maltby MW 0 Glasshoughton Welfare 2; Ossett Town 3 Pickering 1; Sheffield 1 Staveley MW 2; Thackley 1 Buxton 1

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Aloysians 11 Old Buckwellians 4; Old Salvatorians 2 Old Ignatians 3; Old Tenisonians 2 Enfield OG 0; Old Vaughanians 1 Old Meadonians 4. Senior first division: Old Isleworthians 0 Phoenix OB 5; Old Suttonians 2 Old Reigatians 1.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Old Actonians 2 Lloyds Bank 1; Norsemen 1 Old Parmiterians 4; Carshalton 5 West Wickham 2; East Barnet OG 1 Polytechnic 2; Nat West Bank 1 Crouch End Vampires 4; Alexandra Park 2 Civil Service 0; Old Owens 4 Midland Bank 0; Old Parkonians 4 Old Lyonians 2; Old Esthameians 1 Old Bromleians 2; Old Salesians 4 South Bank 3; Old Stationers 2 Winchmore Hill 1; Cuaco 3 Southgate Olympic 0; Broomfield 4 Merton 3; Old Westminster Cz. 1 Alleyn Old Boys 3; Brentham 1 Bank Of England 1; Ibis 2 Old Latymerians 2.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Bradfieldians 3 Old Foresters 1; Etonians 1 Old Chigwellians 2. First division: Haberdashers 1 Wittelians 8; Wykehamists 4 Malvernians 1. Postponed: Old Cholmeleians v Wellingburians. Arthur Dunn Cup: Old Salopians 3 Lancing 1.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior One: City of London 1 Nottsborough 4; Hale End 2 Old Woodhouseians 1; Southgate County 4 Ulysses 3.

SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers 1 Burnham Ramblers 0; East Ham 2 Concord 1; Great Wakering 1 Sawbridgeworth 0; Ilford 1 Stansted 4; Southend Manor 2 Saffron Walden 0.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford 5 Mangotsfield 2; Bridport 1 Backwell 0; Brislington 3 Barnstaple 0; Elmore 2 Keynsham 2; Melksham 3 Westbury 0; Paulton 1 Bristol Manor Farm 2; Taunton 7 Calne 0. ;Barnstaple 0 Mangotsfield 1. Combination League: Ottery St Mary 1 Bideford Res 9. Les Phillips Cup: quarter-finals: Chippenham 0 Clyst 1; Yeovil Res 0 Tiverton 0 (aet Yeovil won 8-7 on penalties).

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Burgess Hill 1 East Preston 1; Chichester 3 Hailsham 0; Eastbourne 3 Whitehawk 2; Horsham YMCA 8 Ringmer 0; Littlehampton 0 Langney Sports 3; Pagham 3 Redhill 1; Portfield 2 Eastbourne Town 4; Saltdean 3 Hassocks 0; Selsey 4 Broadbridge Heath 0; Wick 2 Shoreham 1.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackstone 0 Holbeach 3; Bourne 2 Kempston 0; Buckingham 4 Yaxley 0; Desborough 2 Stotfold 1; S and L Corby 1 N Spencer 5; Wootton 1 Boston 4. Postponed: Spalding v Ford Sports.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Beckenham 0 Hythe 0; Chatham 6 Herne Bay 1; Greenwich 1 Faversham 0; Lordswood 1 Crockenhill 1; Ramsgate 4 Sheppey 1; Tunbridge Wells 0 Deal 5; VCD 3 Erith 3; Whitstable 1 Thamesmead 1.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Arsenal 6 Bradford 0; Croydon 1 Everton 0; Millwall 1 Doncaster 1; Southampton Saints 2 Liverpool 1. Postponed: Tranmere Rovers v Ilkeston.

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Arnold 0 Blyth Spartans Kestrels 1; Wolverhampton 3 Leeds 1; Garswood Saints 1 Coventry 2. Southern division: Barnet 2 Leyton Orient 0; Barry 0 Whitehawk 2; Brighton 1 Langford 1; Wimbledon 4 Reading Royals 3.

NATIONAL

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth 2 Rhyl 1; Afan Lido 2 Holywell 0; Caersws 3 Caernarfon Town 2; Carmarthen Town 2 Conwy 1; Cwmbran 3 Newtown 0; Haverfordwest 0 Barry Town 0; Rhayader Town 2 Connah's Quay 0; Inter Cable-Tel 3 Bangor City 0.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Cove 1 Huntly 3; Elgin 5 Deveronvale 0; Fort William 0 Peterhead 5; Keith 2 Buckie Thistle 1; Wick Academy 0 Fraserburgh 3. Postponed Brora v Clachnacuddin.

BASS IRISH CUP: Semi-finals: Cliftonville 1 Linfield 1; Portadown 2 Ballymena 0.

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cork 2 Finn Harps 1; Derry City 0 Bohemians 1.

GOALSCORERS

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: 26: D Yorke (Man Utd). 23: M Owen (Liverpool). 21: J Aloisi (Coventry, 17 for Portsmouth); A Cole (Man Utd). 19: A Ward (Blackburn, 15 for Barnsley);. 18: R Fowler (Liverpool); H Ricard (Middlesbrough).

Includes all competitions

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
1	2	1	1	1	2	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	1	3	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	1	[illegible]

FORECAST: Half-time: no claims required — winnings sent automatically — forecast is moderate, four score draws and fourteen no-score draws.

Full-time: no claims required — forecast is very good; seven score draws and six no-score draws.



CARLING F.A. PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Man Utd	31	11	4	1	38	16	7	6	2	31	16	64	+37
2 Arsenal	32	11	5	0	27	4	6	7	3	16	9	63	+30
3 Chelsea	31	9	5	1	21	9	8	6	2	26	15	62	+23
4 Leeds	31	11	3	2	30	8	5	6	4	22	20	57	+24
5 Aston Villa	33	9	3	5	28	24	4	7	5	16	15	49	+5
6 West Ham	33	9	3	4	22	20	4	6	7	12	20	48	-6
7 Derby	32	8	5	4	22	19	4	6	5	14	17	47	0
8 Middlesbro	32	7	8	1	24	11	4	5	7	20	30	46	+3
9 Liverpool	30	8	4	2	36	18	4	3	9	21	23	43	+16
10 Newcastle	32	7	4	5	23	20	4	5	7	20	25	42	-2
11 Wimbledon	33	7	6	4	21	18	3	5	8	16	32	41	-13
12 Tottenham	31	7	6	3	24	19	2	7	6	11	18	40	-2
13 Leicester	31	5	6	5	21	23	4	6	5	11	16	39	-7
14 Sheff Wed	32	6	3	7	18	14	5	2	9	20	22	38	+2
15 Coventry	33	7	5	4	21	16	3	2	12	13	29	37	-11
16 Everton	33	4	8	5	12	11	4	2	10	16	29	34	-12
17 Charlton	32	4	5	6	18	14	3	5	9	16	29	31	-9
18 Blackburn	32	6	4	6	19	19	1	6	9	13	24	31	-11
19 Southamptn	33	7	3	6	22	22	1	3	13	6	38	30	-32
20 Nottm F	33	1	7	8	15	30	3	2	12	15	35	21	-35

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Sunderland	41	18	2	1	48	9	9	9	2	32	15	92	(80)
2 Ipswich	41	14	1	5	31	12	10	7	4	32	14	80	(63)
3 Bradford	41	15	3	3	46	17	9	4	7	27	23	79	(73)
4 Birmingham	41	10	7	3	30	14	10	5	6	31	19	72	(61)
5 Wolves	41	11	9	1	34	15	7	4	9	25	23	67	(59)
6 Bolton	40	11	5	4	40	24	6	9	5	29	30	65	(69)
7 Watford	41	10	8	3	27	18	7	5	8	30	34	64	(57)
8 Sheff Utd	41	10	6	5	37	28	5	6	9	26	32	57	(63)
9 C Palace	42	11	9	1	41	23	3	6	12	14	37	57	(55)
10 Huddersfld	42	11	8	2	38	22	3	6	12	19	44	56	(57)
11 Norwich	41	6	10	4	28	23	7	5	9	24	30	54	(52)
12 West Brom	41	11	2	7	39	30	4	6	11	24	39	53	(63)
13 Grimsby	39	9	4	5	22	16	6	4	11	15	31	53	(37)
14 Barnsley	42	7	8	6	32	25	5	8	8	20	25	52	(52)
15 Stockport	41	7	8	6	22	18	5	8	7	24	30	52	(46)
16 Tranmere	42	7	6	8	33	28	4	12	5	24	28	51	(57)
17 QPR	40	8	7	6	27	19	3	4	12	18	33	44	(45)
18 Swindon	41	6	8	7	37	41	5	2	13	16	34	43	(53)
19 Portsmouth	42	9	5	7	31	23	1	8	12	20	42	43	(51)
20 Oxford Utd	42	6	8	7	24	26	3	5	13	17	40	40	(41)
21 Bury	41	7	7	6	19	21	1	9	11	11	32	40	(30)
22 Port Vale	40	8	2	9	17	25	3	4	14	22	45	39	(39)
23 Bristol City	40	6	8	7	33	34	2	6	11	19	37	38	(52)
24 Crewe	41	5	6	9	23	33	4	5	12	25	42	38	(48)

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Fulham	39	16	2	1	39	10	12	4	4	27	18	90	(66)
2 Walsall	39	11	6	3	30	20	11	2	6	24	21	74	(54)
3 Preston	40	11	5	4	43	20	10	5	5	28	20	73	(71)
4 Man City	41	11	6	3	31	12	8	9	4	27	17	72	(58)
5 Gillingham	40	14	5	2	41	15	5	9	5	24	21	71	(65)
6 Bournemth	40	14	5	1	37	10	6	5	9	24	28	70	(61)
7 Wigan	38	11	3	4	32	12	7	4	9	25	26	61	(57)
8 Stoke	39	9	3	8	27	26	10	1	8	23	23	61	(50)
9 Millwall	40	8	7	5	29	21	8	3	9	18	26	58	(47)
10 Chesterfld	39	13	3	4	33	16	3	7	9	11	22	58	(44)
11 Reading	41	9	6	6	27	25	6	6	8	22	29	57	(49)
12 Luton	40	9	4	7	23	23	4	6	10	23	31	49	(46)
13 Blackpool	40	6	8	6	21	19	6	5	9	16	28	49	(37)
14 Notts Co	39	7	4	7	25	22	6	5	10	21	31	48	(46)
15 Wrexham	39	7	6	7	18	23	5	5	9	20	31	47	(38)
16 Bristol R	40	7	8	6	30	26	3	7	9	23	22	45	(53)
17 Colchester	40	7	7	6	20	25	3	8	9	23	33	45	(43)
18 Burnley	40	7	6	8	22	33	3	7	9	23	37	43	(45)
19 York	40	5	7	8	25	30	6	2	12	24	40	42	(49)
20 Wycombe	40	7	4	10	27	23	3	6	10	16	28	40	(43)
21 Northmptn	40	4	8	7	16	21	6	5	11	16	28	40	(32)
22 Oldham	40	5	4	10	20	26	5	5	11	19	31	39	(39)
23 Lincoln City	39	8	3	8	24	23	2	3	15	10	43	36	(34)
24 Macclesfld	39	8	4	9	17	22	3	5	12	16	29	36	(33)

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Camb Utd	39	13	4	3	39	18	9	4	6	33	23	74	(72)
2 Cardiff	41	13	5	3	35	17	7	7	6	22	18	72	(57)
3 Brentford	39	14	4	2	38	17	7	1	11	24	34	68	(62)
4 Scunthorpe	40	13	2	5	38	25	7	4	9	24	27	66	(62)
5 Rotherham	39	9	7	4	35	23	8	4	7	34	27	62	(69)
6 L Orient	39	10	5	5	28	24	6	8	5	25	24	61	(53)
7 Mansfield	40	13	2	4	33	16	4	7	10	22	39	60	(55)
8 Swansea	39	8	9	2	26	16	7	4	9	19	25	58	(45)
9 Peterboro	41	9	4	8	34	29	7	5	8	28	24	57	(62)
10 Plymouth	40	11	5	5	30	14	5	4	10	19	24	57	(49)
11 Halifax	40	8	8	4	30	23	6	6	8	21	27	56	(51)
12 Darlington	39	9	4	6	34	20	6	4	10	22	31	53	(56)
13 Chester	41	6	10	4	24	24	6	6	9	26	32	52	(50)
14 Barnet	40	10	4	7	30	29	4	5	10	19	33	51	(49)
15 Brighton	41	7	1	12	23	34	8	4	9	23	28	50	(46)
16 Exeter	39	10	5	5	25	16	3	6	10	13	24	50	(38)
17 Torquay	41	6	8	4	26	16	3	8	10	18	33	49	(44)
18 Shrewsbury	40	10	5	5	32	25	2	8	10	12	27	49	(44)
19 Rochdale	40	8	8	4	19	15	4	5	11	17	30	49	(36)
20 Hull	41	7	5	9	22	25	6	4	10	19	32	48	(41)
21 Southend	41	8	5	7	22	15	4	6	11	23	37	47	(45)
22 Hartlepool	40	6	6	8	29	27	5	4	11	18	34	43	(47)
23 Carlisle	41	7	6	7	20	17	3	7	11	17	29	43	(37)
24 Scarboro	39	7	2	9	24	31	5	3	13	18	34	41	(42)

SCOTLAND

BANK OF SCOTLAND PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Rangers	29	10	3	1	27	9	9	2	4	37	18	62	+37
2 Celtic	29	12	2	1	45	7	4	6	4	27	18	56	+47
3 Kilmarnock	30	8	6	2	23	13	5	5	4	15	11	50	+14
4 St Johnstn	29	6	5	3	22	18	6	4	5	13	18	45	-1
5 Motherwell	30	6	5	5	19	22	2	5	7	12	21	34	-12
6 Aberdeen	30	5	4	5	20	24	4	3	9	16	30	34	-18
7 Dundee	30	5	3	7	12	20	4	3	8	14	31	33	-25
8 Dundee Utd	29	2	7	5	12	17	5	1	9	17	20	29	-8
9 Hearts	29	6	2	7	19	21	1	5	8	8	22	28	-16
10 Dunfermline	29	4	6	4	14	17	0	9	6	9	24	27	-18

FIRST DIVISION

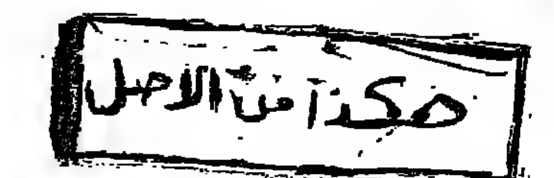
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Hibernian	32	13	1	1	39	10	11	4	2	35	20	77	+44
2 Falkirk	32	8	5	3	27	16	10	1	5	29	17	60	+23
3 Ayr	31	7	3	5	36	21	10	1	5	23	16	55	+22
4 Airdrie	32	5	2	10	16	29	10	3	2	22	11	50	-2
5 St Mirren	32	8	2	6	18	24	4	7	5	14	15	45	-7
6 G Morton	31	5	5	6	19	18	7	2	6	20	14	43	+7
7 Clydebank	30	4	6	4	13	12	5	6	5	17	20	39	-2
8 Raith	32	5	4	8	18	26	2	6	7	16	27	31	-19
9 Hamilton	32	2	5	8	11	22	3	5	9	17	35	25	-29
10 Stranraer	32	2	2	13	14	27	2	0	13	12	36	14	-37

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Livingston	32	12	4	1	28	9	8	5	2	31	21	69	+29
2 Inverness C	32	13	3	0	40	17	7	4	5	32	23	67	+32
3 Clyde	32	9	4	3	24	14	5	4	7	16	22	50	+4
4 Queen of S	32	6	6	3	21	13	5	1	11	22	28	40	+2
5 Arbroath	32	7	3	6	18	22	4	4	8	15	24	40	-13
6 Alloa	32	7	3	7	38	29	4	3	8	21	22	39	+8
7 Partick	32	6	4	7	17	19	5	2	8	14	18	39	-6
8 Stirling	32	5	2	8	22	27	5	5	7	22	31	37	-14
9 East Fife	32	5	3	7	17	27	5	3	9	19	30	36	-21
10 Forfar	32	5	3	8	27	31	2	4	10	16	33	28	-21

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Ross County	32	11	1	4	36	14	10	4	2	43	23	68	+42
2 Stenhsmuir	32	8	2	6	33	24	8	5	3	24	15	55	+18
3 Brechin	32	6	6	5	20	19	9	2	4	24	21	53	+4
4 Dumbarton	32	5	5	6	23	20	8	4	4	24	19	48	+8
5 Albion	32	5	4	6	22	29	7	4	6	21	25	44	-11
6 Berwick	32	5	3	8	22	25	4	10	2	21	21	40	-3
7 Queen's Pk	32	6	6	4	21	18	3	4	9	16	24	37	-5
8 East Stirling	32	4	9	3	26	20	4	3	9	21	25	36	+2
9 Montrose	32	5	4	6	22	24	3	2	12	15	39	30	-26
10 Cowdenbth	32	5	2	10	19	28	2	4	9	12	32	27	-29



FOR THE RECORD

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: Kangaroos 15 10 (100) bt Richmond 13 12 (90); Geelong 14.13 (97) bt Melbourne 12 19 (91), Essendon 22 17 (149) bt Sydney 9 14 (68) Port Adelaide 15.13 (103) bt Brisbane 11 14 (80) Hawthorn 18.16 (112) bt Fremantle 11 12 (78). Carlton 15 15 (105) bt Western Bulldogs 15 13 (103): West Coast 16.15 (111) bt Collingwood 11 9 (75) Adelaide 14 12 (96) bt St Kilda 11 15 (81)

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Friday: Florida 7 Philadelphia 4; Montreal 3 New York Mets 10; Pittsburgh 2 Chicago Cubs 1, Atlanta 3 Arizona 2 (10inns). Houston 3 Milwaukee 2. St Louis 0 Cincinnati 3, Los Angeles 9 Colorado 6, San Francisco 8 San Diego 3 **Saturday:** Pittsburgh 9 Chicago Cubs 3 Montreal 3 New York Mets 4 (11inns) St Louis 4 Cincinnati 2 San Francisco 1 San Diego 11 Florida 2 Philadelphia 5; Atlanta 3 Arizona 8, Los Angeles 2 Colorado 0; Houston 2 Milwaukee 8.

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Friday: New York Yankees 12 Detroit 3 (7inns), Chicago White Sox 5 Kansas City 10; Baltimore 4 Toronto 7 Tampa Bay 1 Boston 4, Minnesota 5 Cleveland 14 Texas 4 Anaheim 8, Seattle 6 Oakland 1 **Saturday:** Baltimore 1 Toronto 0; New York Yankees 5 Detroit 0. Kansas City 9 Chicago White Sox 4, Tampa Bay 3 Boston 5, Minnesota 7 Cleveland 12, Texas 0 Anaheim 10, Seattle 4 Oakland 11

BOWLS

MELTON MOWBRAY: EIBA national championships: Fours: First round: Tilbury (G Walls) bt Coventry (E Over) 25-21; City of Ely (G Harlow) bt Herts (M Dolby) 28-17; Stour Vale (P Hunt) bt Cotswold (D Howes) 20-19 (after extra end), Rushden

East Dorset 28-9 Leicester bt Sunderland 21-20. Whiteknights bt North Walsham 29-11 Swindon Westlecot bt Cyphers 31-18; Cumbria bt Pinewood Park 25-17. Barking bt Teignbridge 24-15 **Quarter-finals:** City of Ely bt Stour Vale 21-14. Chipping Norton bt Leicester 24-17. Whiteknights bt Swindon Westlecot 19-10. Cumbria bt Barking 18-17 (after extra end).

TORFAEN: WIBA national championships: Pairs: Semi-finals: P Huntley and I Slade (Islwyn) bt P Elsworth and B Stock (Islwyn) 28-18. N Leigh and J Webley (Cardiff) bt T Sullivan and N Williams (Swansea) 25-14 **Final:** Huntley and Slade bt Leigh and Webley 19-16. **Triples: Semi-finals:** H Price, S Rees and J Price (Swansea) bt J C Thomas T Davies and S Butler (Port Talbot) 16-13. N Rees, D Harding and J Greenslade (Cardiff) bt D Witchell, H Green and J Dacey (Islwyn) 17-13 **Fours: Semi-finals:** D Vowles, R Wall, M Selway and N Collett (Cardiff) bt J Griffiths, P Page, K Griffiths and M Williams (Dinefwr) 22-16. J Forey, R Morgan, N Leigh and J Webley (Cardiff) bt C Forey, P Jones, A Davies and D Evans (Llanelli) 22-12. **Over-60: Singles: Semi finals:** B Griffiths (Sealand) bt D Gwilym (Cardiff) 21-17. T Sullivan (Swansea) bt C Taylor (Merthyr Tydfil) 21-16 **Over-60: Pairs: Semi finals:** T Scott and B O'Hara (Flinth) bt G Thomas and D Williams (Dinefwr) 27-8. C Taylor and E George (Merthyr Tydfil) bt M Beacham and F Birch (Islwyn) 25-17

STIRLING: Scottish Cup: Final: Galleon 87 Midlothian 83 (I Brown 27 T Conlan 22; D Ross 18 D Peacock 15; G Peacock 13 W Rankin 23, D Crawford 29 W Peacock 23)

GLASGOW: Greengauge Scottish team championship: Final: Alloa 4pts (68 shots) Edinburgh 4pts (65 shots.

LANARKSHIRE: Women's Scottish inter-club league: Final: Aberdeen 73 Midlothian 71 (S Stott 20 G McGregor 16 E Bantel 15 J Conlan 18, S Mearns 16 A Melrose 16; R Smith 22 S McLeish 21)

BOXING

CRICKET

University matches

Cambridge University v Lancashire

FENNER'S (final day of three) Lancashire beat Cambridge University by six wickets

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings 261 for 7 dec (O J Hughes 84, K D M Walker 55)

Second Innings

K D M Walker c Haynes b Smethurst	0
I Mohammed c Watkinson b Green	11
*O J Hughes c Haynes b Smethurst	17
J P Pyemont lbw b Smethurst	0
†B J Collins lbw b Green	0
A R Danson b Watkinson	31
R G Halsall c Harvey b Smethurst	0
G R Loveridge c McKeown b Watkinson	126
C R Pimlott lbw b Schofield	7
J P Lowe not out	0
J S Ross lbw b Schofield	0
Extras (lb 3, nb 2)	5
Total	197

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-29, 3-29, 4-29, 5-29, 6-29, 7-112, 8-183, 9-197.

BOWLING: Green 18-9-39-2. Smethurst 22-11-44-4, Chapple 8-4-8-0, Chilton 4-0-13-0; Schofield 12.3-4-36-2. Watkinson 15-2-54-2

LANCASHIRE: First Innings 245 for 1 dec (M J Chilton 106 not out, P C McKeown 74 not out)

Second Innings

P C McKeown lbw b Halsall	75
M J Chilton b Lowe	31
*G D Lloyd c Walker b Loveridge	52
M E Harvey c Danson b Loveridge	39
M Watkinson not out	10
C P Schofield not out	4
Extras (b 1, lb 2, w 2)	5
Total (4 wkts)	216

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-77, 2-140, 3-197, 4-208

One-day international

West Indies v Australia

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Final leg 4a positions (Hong Kong to Singapore leg finished early because of zero winds) 1, Ariel (A Thomson). 2, Antiope (K Harris); 3, Mermerus (B Sollars); 4, Chrysolite (T Hedges); 5, Thermopylae (M Tod): 6, Serica (R Dean), 7, Taeping (N Fleming)

GRAFHAM WATER, Cambridgeshire: Volvo RYA youth national championships: Final overall positions (after five days). **420 men** (after 10 races, 1 discard) 1, I Martin and C Martin 47pts. 2, B Field and J Holmes 45; 3, R Watson and M Ellis 58 **420 women** (after 10 races, 1 discard) 1, N Barnes and J Marshall 105. 2, C Bassadone and H Mayhew 121. 3, F Greenland and K Sanders 128 **Laser** (after 10 races, 1 discard): 1, A Commander 32; 2, M Howard 33; 3, B Rhodes 36. **Laser radial men** (after 10 races, 1 discard) 1, J Smith 40, 2, M McGovern 56; 3, T Hulse 65 **Laser radial women** (after 10 races, 1 discard): 1, B Holt 187; 2, K Archer 273; 3, H Shaw 359

SHOOTING

BLOEMFONTEIN: South African National Rifle Association championships: Australia Match Challenge Shield (Commonwealth teams championship; 10 shots at 300, 600, 800 and 900m, teams of ten, ex 3,000): 1, Great Britain 2,934.234pts. 2, South Africa 2,903.187; 3, Australia 2,888.198 **Challenge Bowl:** T Rylands (GB) 298.22 **Scottish Sword:** 1, B Dombrowski (Can) 160.17, 2, D Lowe (GB) 160.13, 3, S Penrose (GB) 160.13 4, D Richards (GB) 160.13 (on count-out)

SNOOKER

mood (Pak) 13-15, 15-7, 15-11, 15-12; A Fairy (Egypt) bt I Higgins (Eng) 18-17, 15-12, 15-11, 15-14; D Palmer (Aus) bt R Lavigne (Fr) 15-5, 15-5, 15-7, D Bencholt (It) bt T Tuominen (Fin) 15-12, 15-12, 15-6, A Ricketts (Aus) bt J Kyttanen (Fin) 17-15, 15-12, 15-8; J Raumolin (Fin) bt T Berdon (Neth) 6-15, 15-10, 15-5, 5-15, 15-10; D Forslund (Swe) bt O Tuominen (Fin) 15-13, 9-15, 15-10, 15-11; O Elborolossy (Egypt) bt R Donatsch (Switz) 15-11, 15-9, 15-9 **Quarter-finals:** Jenson bt Fairy 15-2, 15-3, 15-4. Palmer bt Bianchetti 15-13, 15-13, 15-12 Raumolin bt Ricketts 10-15, 12-15, 15-12, 15-9, 15-4. Elborolossy bt Forslund 15-13, 15-11, 13-15, 17-15

DERBYSHIRE, Duffield Morson International: Men: Semi-finals: J Knepp (Aus) bt M Berrett (Eng) 15-12, 15-7, 17-16, P Lord (Eng) bt Z J Khan (Pak) 15-6, 15-5, 15-4 **Women: Semi-finals:** A Wray (Eng) bt T Shenton (Eng) 8-10, 9-7 9-0, 8-10, 9-6, T Bailey (Eng) bt V Botwright (Eng) 5-9, 9-2, 9-0, 3-1.

TENNIS

ESTORIL OPEN: Men: Semi-finals: A Costa (Sp) bt J Golmard (Fr) 6-4, 6-4, T Martin (US) bt M Rios (Chile) 6-3, 7-6. **Final:** Costa bt Martin 7-6, 2-6, 6-3 **Women: Semi-finals:** R Kuti Kis (Hun) bt M Diaz Oliva (Arg) 5-7, 6-2, 6-2, K Srebotnik (Slovenia) bt L Bacheva (Bul) 7-5, 6-4. **Final:** Srebotnik bt Kuti Kis 6-3, 6-1.

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida: WTA Bausch and Lomb championship: Quarter-finals: M Seles (US) bt A Coetzer (SA) 6-3, 6-0; C Martinez (Sp) bt M Pierce 3-6, 7-5, 6-2 **Semi-finals:** Seles bt Martinez 6-0, 6-1, R Dragomir (Rom) bt A Kournikova (Russ) 6-3, 7-5

HONG KONG OPEN: Semi-finals: A Agassi (US) bt H Dreekmann (Ger) 6-3, 6-0; B Becker (Ger) bt B Karbacher (Ger) 6-4, 6-4

Paul Fagan, centre, is thwarted by two Malory players in the final of the Westfield Heath English Cup on Saturday, in which Malory beat City of Liverpool 3-1. Report, page 44

RUGBY UNION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol	22	18	0	4	704	338	36
Rotherham	22	18	0	4	615	282	36
* Worcester	22	17	0	5	594	308	32
Exeter	23	13	1	9	508	495	27
Leeds	22	13	0	9	531	301	26
London Welsh	22	13	0	9	613	490	26
Waterloo	22	12	0	10	364	462	24
Coventry	22	11	0	11	532	476	22
Orrell	22	9	0	13	406	379	18
Moseley	22	9	0	13	440	489	18
Rugby	22	9	0	13	343	479	18
Wakefield	22	5	0	17	386	634	10
Fylde	22	4	1	17	281	686	9
Blackheath	23	3	0	20	327	725	6

* Worcester deducted 2pts

CLUB MATCH: London Welsh 34 Crawshays Welsh XV 26

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: Old Colfeians 38 Charlton Park 3

MIDLANDS: Stoke-on-Trent 27 Camp Hill 23

NORTH: Broughton Park 22 Northern 33

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Wales 11 England 63 (at St Helen's, Swansea)

Welsh League

First division

Bonymaen 49 Maesteg 12

Dunvant: Tries: Kila, Lewis. Con: Daniel Pens: Daniel 4. **Pontypool:** Tries: F Vunipola 2, Lewis, Simms. Pen: Silva. HT: 15-13

S Wales Police 22 Blackwood 19

South Wales Police: Tries: McIntosh 2, Andrews Cons: Sparrow 2 Pen: Sparrow **Blackwood:** Tries: Brown, penalty try, Vealer. Cons: Brown 2. HT: 5-7

Treorchy 25 Llandovery 24

Treorchy: Tries: P Dunning, Lewis, Roberts. Cons: D Evans 2 Pens: D Evans 2 **Llandovery:** Tries: D Davies, Roberts, Stead Cons: Hancox 3. Pen: Hancox. HT: 5-17

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Dunvant	25	21	1	3	897	379	131	22	86
Bonymaen	25	18	2	5	627	309	89	17	73
Pontypool	24	18	0	6	591	397	78	9	63
Cross Keys	26	16	1	9	592	473	69	6	55
Treorchy	24	14	2	8	651	437	90	11	55
Merthyr	26	14	2	10	526	516	71	7	61
Abertillery	26	11	2	13	478	536	59	9	44
Llandovery	25	11	2	12	595	573	78	7	42
Rumney	22	11	1	10	403	499	60	8	42
Newbridge	25	11	0	14	504	474	56	5	38
Tondu	26	10	1	15	421	551	55	5	38
Tredegar	22	9	1	12	455	445	55	5	33
Blackwood	24	7	1	16	428	539	67	8	30
SW Police	26	8	1	17	423	725	59	0	25
UWIC	21	6	1	14	376	535	47	3	22

Lansdowne	10	7	0	3	178	163	14
Buccaneers	10	7	0	3	182	191	14
Shannon	10	6	0	4	205	138	12
St Mary's	10	6	0	4	198	167	12
Y Munster	10	4	1	5	121	106	9
Terenure	10	4	1	5	156	161	9
Ballymena	10	4	0	6	177	190	8
Clontarf	10	3	0	7	165	228	6

RUGBY LEAGUE

ICE HOCKEY

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

SAILING

Garside aims to sail into the record book

By Edward Gorman
Sailing Correspondent

MIKE GARSIDE, the former SAS officer at the helm of *Magellan Alpha*, remains the only Briton left in the Around Alone Race and, one day into the fourth and final leg from Punte del Este, Uruguay, to Charleston, South Carolina, he is showing signs of enjoying his self-appointed task.

The man, who 16 years ago cruised round the world with his family and then returned to the sea in the Finot-designed *Magellan* only to find he hated her privations and her awkward temperament, has been saying how much he disliked the challenge from the day he set off last September. But things finally gelled on the third leg through the Southern Ocean and Garside is even rumoured to be considering further campaigns.

In the meantime, he has set himself two goals: to win the 5,700-mile final leg and to set a record time by a Briton.

Winning the leg is going to be difficult. J. P. Mouligne, of France, in the slower blood-red *Cray Valley*, produced the performance of the race with his successive leg wins in Class 2. Mouligne has an eight-day lead over Garside but is in no mood to sit on his laurels.

Garside, in turn, is only nine hours ahead of Brad van Liew, of the United States, in *Balance Bar*, in the overall standings. The American is capable of winning the leg himself in a boat optimised for light-air, upwind racing.

As for the record, Garside is well up on Josh Hall's time of 157 days when coming third in Class 2 in 1990-91. "I am aiming for a time of 26 days for the leg which, when added to my elapsed time of 107 days, will hopefully give me a final total of less than 134 days," Garside reported yesterday from a position about a mile behind Van Liew and Mouligne, who were tied for the early lead.

Srikumar Sen sees the champion show a worrying lack of stamina

Hamed locates escape route in nick of time

NASEEM HAMED came close to defeat against Paul Ingle when they met at Manchester on Saturday. If Ingle had not walked into a left in the eleventh round, he might have stopped the World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion, who appeared to be running out of stamina at the time.

If Hamed does not want to live dangerously, he should put himself in the care of Emanuel Steward, who trains Lennox Lewis. Hamed had called him in as an adviser at a late hour, and it was just as well, because it was Steward who gave him the punch with which to finish Ingle.

All night long the champion belted Ingle about the head and body but, before the decisive blow, he had managed to put the challenger on the canvas only twice: in the first and in the sixth. Yet the Scarborough man came back and in the second half almost turned the contest around.

Ingle gritted his teeth and stuck to his game-plan of pressuring Hamed in the second half when the champion was expected to tire. Ingle took charge from the eighth, often catching Hamed with good jabs. In the ninth he hurt the champion, whose desire for a fight suddenly appeared to leave him. Hamed either backed around the ring trying to get out of Ingle's way or threw wild swings that the challenger had no trouble avoiding.

By the tenth, Hamed's nose was bleeding freely. It was in the eleventh that Steward injected some of his expertise. He told Hamed not to rely on punches around Ingle's guard but to go straight through the middle.

As Ingle tried to force the pace, Hamed shot out a short left through the middle. With



Hamed celebrates his twelfth title defence

Ingle coming in, the blow caught him high on the head and sent him flying onto his back. Even though he got up and tried to continue, the referee, Joe Cortez, stepped in.

"It is the mark of a great champion to get yourself out of a difficult situation like that," Steward said. Hamed's discomfiture in the closing rounds can be gauged from the fact that he had wanted to see Thomas Hearns against Nate Miller in the contest

Rob Hughes........................36

immediately after his bout but was unable to return ringside until Hearns's bout was almost over.

Hamed has become a more rounded boxer under his new trainer, Oscar Suarez. His boxing has been tightened up and balance improved. But his stamina needs attention. His boxing in the first six rounds was of the highest class. The double left hook that sent Ingle to the floor in the first and the left to the body that grounded the challenger in the sixth were high-quality punches.

It was nice to see Hamed giving credit to Ingle for the gallant effort that has earned the Scarborough man a place on HBO's list of fighters. "I give credit to Paul," Hamed said, "he took some really hard shots, got off the floor and came back to turn on the heat." Ingle added: "I was really enjoying it from the seventh round."

Hamed's failure to stay in charge after dominating the contest in the first half will cause his team concern. That is why he should look to Steward. "He was close to defeat," Steward said. "For the first time, his nose was bleeding. He has been getting away with much because of his punch and youth. But as he fights more, a lot of guys are going to be younger and stronger. He has got to make adjustments."

Hamed blamed a hand injury, sustained around the fifth round, for his failure to keep up the intensity and accuracy of his first-half boxing. He is to have an X-ray today. "I don't think my hand is broken," Hamed said. "After the sixth round, my hand really started to hurt. As much as it hurts, I'm not really bothered, as long as I can punch.

"I felt confident, from round one, I was going to win. I felt definitely stronger than him and when I knocked him down in the first round, I knew something was going to happen."

Hamed, who admitted that Ingle had given him one of the toughest fights of his career, now intends to unify the belts and, hand permitting, will meet Manuel Medina, the International Boxing Federation champion, or Luisito Espinosa, the World Boxing Council title-holder, in July.



Ingle crumples under Hamed's double left hook in the first round before getting up to give the champion a testing time. Photograph: John Gichigi/Allsport

VOLLEYBALL

Perfect ten as Malory complete double

By Roddy Mackenzie

LONDON Malory do not know the meaning of defeat when it comes to a cup final. The English League champions continued their unblemished record in finals when they won their tenth Westfield Health English Cup in 13 years at Ponds Forge, Sheffield, on Saturday.

The 15-12, 15-7, 12-15, 15-12 win over City of Liverpool was not without anxiety, particularly when Liverpool clawed back the third set as Tom de Smet, their Belgium junior international, and Mark Brennan, who went on to take the most valuable player award, picked holes in the Malory block.

In the final set, De Smet made a costly error of judgment at 12-13 when he elected to play a ball that was drifting out of play and Malory went on to win the service back. It was the momentum they needed to take the trophy and complete the league and cup double.

"I guess winning the cup ten times in 13 years is not too shabby," Jefferson Williams, the Malory player-coach, said. "Liverpool surprised me as they raised their game and they were a very tight unit." Williams, who had been on the sidelines for six weeks with a knee injury, brought himself on court after the first set and played a large part in the victory with his outside hitting.

There was a surprise in the women's final when Loughborough, in the final for the first time, took the trophy with a 15-4, 15-11, 15-6 over London Malory. Malory were handicapped by the absence of Audrey Cooper and Amanda Glover, who were in Mexico to compete in the Acapulco world series beach tournament. However, Loughborough fully deserved the win and took just 71 minutes to overcome the London side.

Photograph, page 43

Capitalisation, week's change

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CORPORATE PROFILE: *Energis*

THE FACTS

Market Cap: £5.3 billion.
Revenue 1997-98: £167.9 million.
Profits: Pre-tax loss of £11.7 million.
Employees: 1,200.
Business: Energis concentrates on providing specialist, and often tailor-made telecommunications services to the corporate sector but is also now the biggest carrier of domestic Internet traffic through its tie-up with Dixons Freeserve.

THE BOARD

Gordon Owen, 60, has been Energis chairman since the company was formed in September 1992. A former group managing director of Cable & Wireless, for which he worked for 37 years, he was also managing director of its Mercury Communications subsidiary. Other chairmanships include Utility Cable, Acorn Computers and Yeoman Group.
Michael Grabiner, 47, held a number of senior positions in BT, including director BT Europe and director Global Customer Service before becoming chief executive of Energis in January 1996.
Chris Hibbert, 50, joined Energis as finance director in May 1996 and joined the board in October 1996. He is a former finance director for BT Networks. Energis has four non-executive directors: **Christopher Rodrigues**, 47, chairman of the audit committee, is group chief executive of Bradford & Bingley Building Society. **Stephen Box**, 47, joined the board of Energis when he became finance director of The National Grid. Prior to that he spent 25 years with Coopers & Lybrand. **Nigel Walmsley**, 56, joined the board in 1997. He is chairman of Carlton Television and an executive director of Carlton Communications. **David Jones**, 56, chairman of the remuneration committee, joined the Energis board in 1994 after his appointment to the board of The National Grid as group chief executive of South Wales Electricity.

It must have seemed a bizarre, long shot of an idea when first suggested. The National Grid, the UK's electricity distributor should launch a telecommunications service for the business market. But at least the roads wouldn't have to be dug up. The Grid network could be replicated quite easily by hanging telephone cables from electricity pylons and using any other electricity conduits on offer.

Yet Energis, which was formed only in 1992 and has yet to make a profit at pre-tax level, has just joined the UK's industrial elite in the FTSE 100 and is capitalised at more than £5.3 billion.

When Energis was launched on the Stock Exchange in December 1997, its shares were 290p, although the valuation was clearly influenced by the troubles of an apparently similar high-tech telecommunications company, Ionica. Whereas Ionica crashed, Energis shares have flourished spectacularly and are now more than £18, having been £19. Last year, they outdid all other shares on the Stock Exchange, except for the telecommunications rival Colt.

Has Energis simply been swept along by sentiment in favour of the telecommunications sector, where mention of the terms "Internet" and "corporate data" can send shares soaring? Can its valuation be sustained, let alone increased?

Mike Grabiner, the Energis chief executive, whose first 818,000 share options bear a price of 108p, albeit linked to inflation, says: "What the market says about us is based on the acceleration and growth of the data and interactive market, particularly the Internet, and then it's based on our ability to capitalise on that."

Energis's financial trends do not quite match the explosive growth of the share price, but show a strong upward path. The company had revenue of £4.6 million in 1994-95, £42.8 million the next year, and £97.1 million in 1996-97, before last year's £167.9 million. A high proportion of revenue is from advanced services rather than voice telephony.

Analysts now forecast that Energis will make pre-tax profits of about £28 million in 2001 — earlier than most of its New Age rivals. The company is clearly benefiting from having begun with a clean sheet of paper and therefore no "legacy systems", a polite term for old bits of inherited copper wire.

Energis is close to being a "virtual" telecommunications company, with everything from engineering and maintenance to payroll outsourced and with the bulk of its 1,200 staff working in sales, marketing and customer services.

Even so, Grabiner acknowledges that Energis has been lucky in timing. If it had been set up just six months earlier, the company might have chosen a more traditional network, he believes. Instead, it built the latest, integrated high-speed fibre-optic network, operating at 2.5 billion bits a second and, in places, at 10 billion.

Analysts believe that the network structure has given Energis a two-year lead. The technology has been combined with a precise business strategy. Energis would begin working with a particular company at a modest level to prove its reliability and then gradually increase its presence before migrating to similar companies.

High-profile "wins", such as the BBC, boosted credibility. Energis won a contract to link the BBC's national and regional centres, and the contractual commitment was to provide 99.998 per cent service availability. Another big data job was to link Mirror Group's London headquarters with the *Scottish Daily Record* in Glasgow. "They want the ability to change pages late in the day," Grabiner says. "You must give them bandwidth on demand and the network has the capability to reallocate bandwidth." For Boots, the key issue was a four-second transaction time at point of sale linked to everything from customer database to stock control.

Energis now has 3 per cent of Britain's corporate telecommunciations market. But it is the Internet (for which there was no profits forecast in the original Energis business plan) that is causing excitement. The first big step was the £75 million acquisition of Planet Online, a "Web farm" providing storage and connectivity to the network for corporate websites. Even more eye-catching, Dixons last year began its Freeserve Internet service with Planet, and Energis carries the traffic. Energis is now the UK's largest Internet carrier, and the domestic traffic — largely evening and weekend — uses the network when corporate traffic is lowest.

For Grabiner, the significence is more than simply filling empty capacity. "The faster the home Internet market grows, the more a number of corporates are going to realise they must get into this business," he says. "When they do that, we are really very well placed to take advantage."

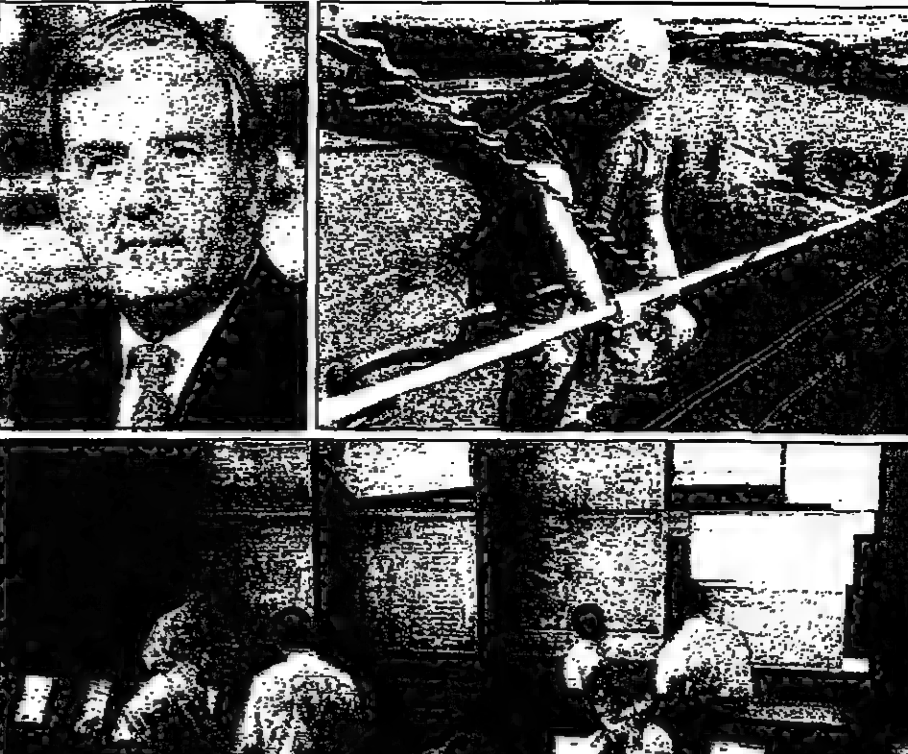
Although a multimillionaire on paper, Grabiner rates quite well in Crisp Consulting's "fat-cat quotient", as does Energis. His pay topped £4 million last year, but 90 per cent of it came from the value of share options and non-executive directors are "significantly underpaid". Integrity Works, assessing ethical expression, says that Energis is to communicate a new brand and values this month. Its present code of conduct is similar to that of National Grid, which still owns 49 per cent of Energis.

As well as trying to gain from the Internet, Energis is extending local access to up to ten cities through MetroHoldings, a venture with Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom. The company will almost certainly join a consortium to bid for a new third-generation mobile telephone licence up for auction in the next 12 months. Energis also feels well placed to be the UK's first Internet Protocol telephone company — offering integrated speech and data via the Internet.

Of course, the bubble may burst, and telecommunications stocks may suffer a correction or be sucked down by a more general collapse. The lack of pre-tax profits would not help in a general freefall. But that is not how City analysts see it. John Tysoe, of SB Securities, puts his views on Energis's likely future as two questions. "What if the Energis share of the corporate market grows not from 3 per cent to 10 per cent, but actually grows to 15 per cent?" Tysoe asks. Hardly daring to say it, he adds: "What if the corporate data market grows not by ten times but by 100 times?"

RAYMOND SNODDY





Mike Grabiner, left, chief executive, with Chris Hibbert, finance director, have seen shares in Energis soar. The company, whose chairman is Gordon Owen, top centre, was created by wrapping telecommunication cables round National Grid's earth wires, top right. A national control centre manages its network

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"Energis has been carried along in a wave of enthusiasm surrounding a lot of new age telecommunications companies. The thing that differentiates Energis from the pack is that its management has demonstrated time and time again its ability to stay ahead of the curve."
Alan Lyons, ABN-AMRO.

"I like the focused, concentrated Energis business plan. It is not trying to be all things to all men. It just knows what it wants to do and the sector is still being rerated — upwards."
John Tysoe, SG Securities.

OUR VERDICT

Ethical Expression¹ 5/10
Fat-cat quotient² 7/10
Financial record 6/10
Share performance 9/10
Attitude to staff 7/10
Strength of brand 5/10
Innovation 8/10
Annual report 7/10
City star rating 9/10
Future prospects 8/10
Total 71/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by ¹Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by ²Crisp Consulting.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1999 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)	Company	Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1¼	0¾	2.40	10 Grp	1	...	...	...
118½	89½	12.20	AFA Systems	96½	− 1	...	...
96½	91½	12.10	AMCO Corp	94	..	7.8	...
127½	93½	6.17	ATA Group	95		8.1	7.7
250	175	41.40	Access Plus	245		2.4	19.0
47½	44½	5.87	Adval Group	44½	...	...	7.6
4	2	2.39	African Gold	2¼	+ ½	...	...
84	66½	30.40	Albemarle & Bd	66½	− ½	1.8	17.8
34	24	11.40	Alizyme	32	...	...	...
65½	42½	14.20	Ambient Media	59½	...	...	...
130½	102½	6.62	Ambishus Pub Co	105	− 2½	...	13.6
97	86½	32.30	Anglo Sibrn Oil	89	..	..	...
108½	91½	2.84	Anglo-Welsh	91½	− 2	4.0	...
72½	41½	34.20	Antonov	43	..	..	...
87½	82½	15.70	Aortech	77½	...	..	...
90	65	4.68	Aram Resources	90	+ 5	4.7	34.1
65	65	6.63	Archer Dedicated	65			...
5½	3½	2.60	Artisan (UK)	3¾	...	...	
547½	350	121.40	Ask Central	535	− 10	0.2	
57½	52½	1.03	Athelney Trust	57½	...	1.9	49.1
8½	4½	10.60	Atlantic Caspian	6	..		...
6	6	4.56	Avalon Oil	6	..	..	...
395½	175½	122.50	BATM Adv Comms	392½	+ 91½	0.8	
91½	53½	11.90	BCO Technologies	63½	...		
182½	130	27.60	BGR	175	..	1.3	19.0
1¼	1	0.92	Bakery Services	1¼			
2¼	1½	4.25	Beechcroft	2¼	..	3.0	
3¼	2½	5.33	Beaufort	2¾	...	2.5	54.7
36½	34½	5.36	Bickerton	35	...	1.4	33.2
55	48	0.78	Billam	49	..	10.8	
38½	18½	1.91	Bilston Btrsea	21½	...	4.9	8.9
1¼	1	7.08	Birchin Intl	1¼			15.4
43½	32½	19.20	Birmingham City	38½	− 4½		
11½	3	1.78	Blakes Cloth	3¼	...	30.8	6.1
30½	30½	1.46	Bogod	30½		3.8	...
96½	84½	13.00	Bond Intl Soft	95½	+ 2		23.2
316	305	2.13	Bowness Leis	305		2.5	13.2
13½	10½	5.41	Brancote Hdgs	13	− ½		
65	60	2.52	Br Bloodstock	60		4.2	7.3
10½	4½	0.67	Buckland Invs	5½		..	
8	4	0.03	Buckland Inv Wts	4		...	
165	122	19.60	CA Coutts Hldgs	165	+ 3	2.5	12.1
100	80	6.07	C & B Publishing	82	...	..	6.7
8½	7½	12.40	CCM Distribution	7¼			12.9
72½	72½	3.19	CW Residential	72½	..	2.6	36.5
225	165	9.50	Cafe Inns	190		1.8	14.4
45	45	5.54	Caledonian Tst	45		..	5.6
6¼	5¼	1.73	Cambridge Min Res	6	+ ½		
2½	2	3.38	Camburv Inv	2¼	..		35.9
1	0½	0.68	Camburv Inv Wts	0¾			...
42	29	47.20	Card Clear	33½	+ 1½	0.9	
39½	35½	3.69	Carisbrooke Ship	36½	− 1	2.7	11.8
22	16½	198.60	Carlisle	17½		...	46.1
24	22	1.87	Cassidy Bros	34		8.8	
6¼	3¼	3.07	Celebrated Group	5	+ 1½		
99½	93½	21.40	Cl Comms(TV)	97½	..	2.7	17.3
49½	40	15.90	Charlton Athl	44½	+ ½		22.5
16½	10½	15.80	Charterhouse Cms	15¾	− ¼	2.5	13.2
88½	69½	116.30	Chelsea Village	74½	− 1		48.3
25	20¼	126.60	Chorion	24¾	+ ¾	0.4	40.7
104½	95½	33.40	Citadel	101	+ 5½	3.0	12.7
39½	26	6.79	City Gourmets	32½	− 2½		
110	90	0.99	Clan Homes	110			..
14	9¾	11.40	Coffee Rep	12	− ½		...
277½	194	33.90	Comino	255	− 2½	1.5	18.0
212½	70	6.67	Computerland UK	72½	− 5	2.6	8.8
15½	11½	9.52	Concurrent Tech	13½	+ 1		
33	28	7.09	Conister Tst	31½	+ 1	4.4	11.8
149½	149½	14.50	Connaught	149½		3.5	11.9
1½	1	1.56	Corporate Exec	1			..
4½	1	0.43	Creos Intl	1		..	
113½	113½	5.73	Cresco Intl	113½		..	30.9
105	77½	1.50	Crown Eye	93½	− 6½	13.4	
170	82½	4.63	Dawn Til Dusk	96½	+ 8½	4.4	7.3
2¾	2¼	1.56	Deanes	2¾	...		
260	230	14.50	Deep Sea Leisure	230		...	18.2
5¼	4¼	7.39	Denmaster	5		2.3	11.7
56½	15½	13.00	Desire Petroleum	27½	− 6	...	35.5
54½	52½	7.95	Digital Anmtn	53½	...	...	..
20½	16½	10.30	Dimension Res	16½		..	..
16½	12½		Dimension Wts	13	..	..	
19½	16	2.44	Dobie Heal	16½	− 1	7.5	
89½	80½	7.53	Delyn Group	85½		2.9	14.5
32½	28½	5.50	Dimeck	29½			14.9
330	225	21.00	Dobbies Garden	318½	+ 18½	1.6	17.5
22½	19½	2.72	Downlex	22½	+ 1¼	6.6	10.1
192½	166½	22.70	Dragons Health	189½	+ 3	1.5	19.7
2	2	1.71	Drings of Bath	2	..		12.9
1412½	395	41.20	Durlacher	1375	...	..	41.7
38	37½	3.67	Eagle	37½		...	
165	75	17.00	Elec Retail Sys	80	− 5	...	
80	69	21.50	Enterprises	79		6.1	7.6
27½	17	5.24	Epic Group	22½	− 1½		23.1
40½	27½	3.63	Eurasia Mining	27½	...	...	
3¼	2½	4.92	Fairplace Cons	3¼	..	3.8	8.5
422	325	10.90	Farlele	430		1.0	17.8
64½	55	11.60	Fayrewood	55	− 1½	2.4	9.6
86½	81½	4.08	Fieldens	81½	...	..	
62½	57½	13.00	Firestone Dmds	57½			
225	155	5.46	Flomerics	210	+ 10	1.6	20.9
62½	62½	7.00	Formscan	62½	...	4.8	7.9
129½	115½	11.00	Fountain Forestry	115½		10.6	16.2
194½	167½	12.70	Furlong Homes	192½	+ 6	4.0	5.7
52½	24½	4.74	Future Int Telec	40½			
179½	133½	15.00	GB Railways	171	...	3.8	9.6
60	50	6.60	GR Hldgs	50	+ ½	2.8	14.5
10¾	7¾	14.90	GTL Res	9¼			
113½	82½	73.50	Gartland WSB	84½	− ½	6.6	4.7
26½	21	33.00	Gold Mns Sard	24	− 1		
29½	19½	9.59	Golden Prospect	19½	...	..	73.2
26	17½	10.70	Golf Club	22½		...	...
143½	111½	24.30	Gooch & Housego	143½		1.2	20.0
18½	10½	3.07	Griffin Mining	14½	..		...
2¼	2	2.25	Grosmont Hldgs	2¼	..		23.5
0½	0½	0.60	Grosmont Hldgs Wts	0½	..		..
8¾	7¾	1.93	Grosvenor Ltd	8		..	25.5
182	163	48.10	Galion	161	..	3.2	..
6¾	3½	2.59	Hansom	6¾	+ 1¼		32.7
185	133	22.50	Hardy Undwrg	134		4.5	7.2
2	1½	11.80	Hartford	1½	..	..	
30	28	7.61	Hacas Group	29½	..		19.1
67½	67½	3.04	Hat Pin	67½			64.1
385	360	7.56	Heavitree	360		2.4	17.4
295	290	12.20	Heavitree A	290		2.9	14.0
145	62½	8.55	Helicon Pubg	145	...		..
85	52½	12.80	Highams Sys	67½	+ 1	1.5	11.4
94½	87½	8.32	Highland Timber	94½			...
80½	65½	17.50	Honeycombe Leisure	77½		..	12.9
103	100	1.64	Hurlingham	102½	+ ½	1.0	
58½	52½	3.52	Hydro-Dynamic	52½	− 1	7.4	17.6
30	18½	4.56	IES	19½	..	...	..
305	205	12.10	I S Solutions	252½	− 4¾	1.6	..
737½	512½	158.50	Indpt Energy	605	− 7½		
66½	51½	11.40	Indpt Radio	63½		..	
86½	44	21.40	Infobank Intl	85½	− ½	..	...
44½	17½	4.78	Inner Workings	19½	...	..	
40½	30½	0.79	Integrd As Mgt	30½		..	
103½	39	23.80	Intelligent Env	75			
487½	402½	24.30	Inter-Alliance	442½	+ 2		
130	108	34.70	Inteurs Services†	118	− 1	2.7	9.7
115½	107½	5.38	Inter Link Foods	114½		1.7	9.7
179	93½	78.30	Internet Tech	174	+ 3½	..	
627½	562½	82.50	Intl Greetings	597½	− 5	1.5	16.9
87½	32½	24.70	IOC Intl	79½	− 7	..	
425	315	18.40	ITG Group	367½			41.5
262½	205	23.40	JSB Software Tech	246	+ 2½	..	..
65½	22½	6.77	James R Knowles	34	+ 10½	4.7	11.6
45½	32½	3.96	Jardinere Ints	45	+ 7½		12.2
280	222½	17.80	Jennings Bros	240	+ 5	3.5	10.7
2	1½	2.46	J Lewis Hlord	1½	..	6.2	12.9
42½	32½	10.70	Jordec	34	..		6.8
24	18½	4.73	Jumbo Intl	24	..		41.0
2¼	1¼	7.92	Just Group	1½	...	...	..
32½	30½	3.51	Kern River	30½	− 2		...
18½	11½	4.32	Keystone Soft	15	− 1½	..	...
9	3		Keystone Wts	7	− 1	..	..
141½	136½	13.30	Kingfisher Ls	137½		1.7	14.0
55	38	30.80	LTG Technologies	38		..	7.5
180	95	6.20	Lady in Leisure	105	..	1.9	9.1
220	178	8.32	Landround	185	+ 5	2.7	15.3
378	360	25.20	Lawrence	360		2.6	11.9
4450	3750	71.30	Lawrie Group	3750		2.7	3.8
22½	14½	1.71	Lepco	18		..	
380	303	74.70	Linton Park	379		6.1	4.4
305	305	6.10	Loades	305		0.4	..
20	10½	6.30	Loftus Road	10½		..	...
13¼	8¼	4.29	Lond & Edn Pub	12½	− ½	..	13.5
75	75	3.98	London Town	75	...	3.1	
45	45	0.45	London Town Wts	45	...	..	...
143½	138½	4.60	Longbridge Intl	139½	...	3.4	11.4
53½	21½	1.21	Longmead	33½	..	7.5	16.3
1	0¾	1.75	Lotteryking	1		..	12.2
0½	0½	0.09	Lotteryking Wts	0½	..		...
0¾	0¾	13.60	MV Sports	0¾		..	
8½	6¼	5.92	Magnum Power	6¼		..	...
422½	267½	58.00	Majestic Wine	420	+ 17½	1.2	25.3
14½	9	10.20	Mano River UK	14½			...
5¾	4½	3.75	Manx & Overseas	4¾	..		
35½	32½	4.81	Market Link Pb	32½		2.8	10.2
75	65	1.56	Matrix Hlthcare	67½		4.4	
14¾	10¼	6.71	Mears Group	14¼	+ ½	2.9	..
4	2½	16.00	Media Content	2½			..
23½	16¾	30.10	Medisys	16¾	− 1		..
20½	19½	14.70	Megalomedia	20	...	1.2	22.2
13½	11½	0.14	Megalomedia Wts	12½	..		
46½	30½	6.35	Methvens	43½			
109½	100½	13.00	Metnor Group	102½			17.5
88½	80	4.33	Metrodome	85			
97½	68½	45.40	Minorplanet	93½	+ 11	..	
106½	58½	8.63	Mondas	68½	...		
287½	230	32.50	Moorepay	277½		2.2	
61½	50	4.67	Mountcashel	61½	+ 10		5.0
49½	34½	7.25	Mulberry Group	34½	− ½	4.3	..
3	2¾	2.07	MultiMedia	3			
8¾	7¼	8.25	Murray Financial Corpn	8¼			..
110½	107½	5.39	NBA Quantum	110		..	11.2
9	8	0.59	NECA	8	...	2.5	...
140	50½	49.10	NMT	125	− 2½		...
157	87½	11.80	NWP	157	+ 7		38.1
418	165	44.70	Nsb Retail Sys	406	− 1	0.5	35.9
155	127	10.20	NWF Grp	128½		6.5	6.5
145	140	10.20	Nash (Wm)	145	..	5.5	5.6
5¾	3½	3.94	Nat Bldg Mats	4			...
105	105	2.10	Nat Bldg Prf	105	..		..
90	40½	15.00	Netcall	75	+ 6		..
80	80	1.52	Norhomes	80			24.8
2½	1¼	0.38	Nthn Petrlm	1¼	..		
60½	45½	2.87	Northstar Sec	45½			24.7
37½	17½	0.35	Northstar Sec Wts#	17½			
27½	27½	13.80	Offshore Tool & Energy	27½			..
62½	54½	11.40	Old Monk Company	62½	+ 1	..	17.0
285	12½	5.90	On Line	147½	− 10	...	
85	75	6.53	Optoplast	75		2.0	12.6
27	9¾	29.90	Oxford Biomedica	21	− ¾		
0¾	0¼	5.79	Pacific Media	0¼	..	..	..
11	5	2.36	Pan Andean Res	6¼	...		
19½	15¾	2.22	Parallel Pics	17½	..		
220	215	5.16	Park Ests(Liv)	215		4.8	14.6
13½	7½	8.08	Pathfinder Props	11½	..	3.6	
165	148½	10.70	Peel Hotels	165	+ 1½	..	...
9¾	7	3.57	Pembertons	7¼	..	..	
131½	123½	8.35	Pennant Intl	126½		2.8	
47½	39½	11.30	Personal Mo Co	42½	...	..	
83½	58½	20.30	Petra Diamonds	59½	− 1		
58½	40	0.67	Petra Dmnds Wt	40	− 2½	...	..
12	9	8.81	Philippine Gd	10½			25.8
17½	10½	2.49	Pital Tech	10½	− 2	..	
258½	187½	33.80	Policy Master Grp	240	− 17½	0.4	
161	138	32.40	PolyDoc	156½	+ 4		...
58½	38½	8.71	Polymasc Pharms	41½			
0½	0½	1.09	Pordum Foods	0½			...
0¾	0¾	0.16	Pordum Fds Wts	0¾	..		...
15	13	13.10	Premier Asset Mgt	15	+ ¼		11.5
189½	160½	6.75	Premier Direct Grp	182½			5.9
4	2¾	128.50	Prestbury Group	3¾			51.1
345	340	7.25	Preston Nth E	345			
84½	67½	5.24	Private & Comm	84½	+ 2	0.7	13.8
250	250	8.75	Property & Cap	250			
18	6¾	8.16	Proteome Scis	10½			
57½	35	1.85	Pubs n Bars	50	+ 4		
82½	47½	11.30	Pyrrah & Arnold	72½	+ 5	2.4	12.6
96½	65½	16.60	Q Group	95	+ 3½	0.5	15.2
280	214½	24.20	Ramco Egy	245	+ 5		
9	6½	10.70	Range Cooker	6¼	+ ¼	2.6	6.4
119½	62	9.31	Raphael ZH	62½	− 5	4.8	5.0
17½	13½	2.19	Recycling Servs	13½	− 1		12.3
5½	1¼	5.14	Reflec	1¼			
2½	1¼	1.36	Revelation Plc	1¼		24.0	
6	5	3.29	Riceman Insce	5			
76½	66½	3.63	Romtec	68½		2.3	
217½	177½	16.50	SBS	187½	+ 10	1.7	15.2
87½	38	8.70	SCi Ent	68½	− 2		
55½	34½	8.96	Salestore	40			
138½	125½	6.78	Savoy Asset Mgt	125½		3.4	13.7
213½	156½	36.30	Science Sys	213½		0.8	
16	11½	4.86	Scotswood Inds	15	− ¼		
1¼	0¾	1.97	Screen	0¾			
2¾	2½	0.49	Selector	2½			
161½	108½	8.79	Shallbone	108½		4.2	5.9
57½	45½	2.41	Shelton (M)	45½		9.3	6.0
8¾	3¾	45.40	Sibir Energy	6¾	− 1¼		
3¾	2¼	5.22	Sea Bus Serv	2¼	− ¼	3.2	8.0
12½	10½	5.06	Sodra Petroleum	12½			
49½	45½	2.87	Solid State Sp	45½		1.1	28.7
250	230	10.60	Solitaire	230		2.6	21.0
81½	34½	7.22	Soundtracs	71½	− 2	0.8	42.7
1	0½	1.47	South Beach Concepts	0¾			
59½	45½	9.40	Southern Vectis	47½		4.8	6.8
86½	62½	25.40	Sports & Out Media	82½			31.4
157½	55½	11.80	Sports Internet	134	− 18½		
155	147½	8.50	Springboard Venture Managers	154½			
282½	137½	33.00	Stallware	260	− 30		
196	103	30.80	Stanford Rook	155	− 7		
35½	11	3.10	Stentor	26½	+ 3½		
6	3		Stentor Warrants	5			
87½	75	4.12	SupaRule	75			
135	122	12.20	Sutton Harbour	122		3.1	18.3
43	7	2.95	Syst Integ Rsch	22	+ 2½		
74½	47½	19.00	Systems Intl	55½	− 2	0.2	17.7
3½	3¼	5.73	Talisman House	3½			8.6
2	1	0.04	Talisman House Warrants	1			
37½	22½	3.97	Theo Fennell	24½			26.4
4¾	4½	9.00	Thomas Potts	4½		0.4	10.6
19½	11½	1.60	Tom Hoskins	15½	..		10.1
57½	27½	5.23	Total Office	32½		5.5	
147½	96½	14.20	Touchstone Grp	144½	+ 3	0.2	20.9
66½	15½	18.10	Tradepoint Fcl	62½	+ 23½		
55½	47½	8.28	Tricorder Tech	54½	...		
145	135	6.72	Trinity Care	140		3.9	12.7
175	145	5.69	UA Group	162½		2.8	
39½	32½	2.96	Univent	32½			28.8
150	122	13.80	VDC	127	− ½	4.3	11.1
9½	6	20.50	Victory Corp	6½			
341½	145	32.20	Virtual Internet	160	− 4	..	
198½	41½	5.85	Voss Net	162½	− 1		
35½	25½	9.33	WML	32½	+ 5	..	31.9
3	1½	4.28	Weeks Group	3		3.7	13.0
68½	42	3.38	West 175 Enter	61½			
£115	9500	10.00	West Bromwich	£100	−500		11.6
9	8	3.59	Western Selectn	8¼		3.0	27.4
1¾	1½	0.11	Western Sel Wts	1¾		...	
32½	17½	2.52	Westmount Engy	22½	− 2		
80	50	1.76	Willington	55	− 5	8.7	2.2
112½	61½	13.30	Winchester	98½			51.6
75	55	14.20	World Telecom	56½	− 1½		
135	135	4.32	Wynnstay Props	135	..	3.9	16.3
170	125	36.80	XKO	158	− 1		
35½	29½	6.02	Xpertise	29½		..	
63½	51½	4.67	Yeoman	61½			
3	3	0.69	Zicor Mining	3	..		

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY
Interims: Wardle Storeys. **Finals:** Bond International Software, Riva Group, Servomex. **Economic statistics:** none scheduled.

TOMORROW
Interims: Peter Black Holdings (8 mths), Dalkeith Inns, London & St Lawrence Investment Trust, Pressac. **Finals:** Automotive Precision Holdings, Rugby Estates, Tesco, Xpertise Group. **Economic statistics:** British Retail Consortium March retail sales monitor.

WEDNESDAY
Interims: Gardner Group, High-Point Rendel Group. **Finals:** none scheduled. **Economic statistics:** BSL regional economic forecasts.

THURSDAY
Interims: none scheduled. **Finals:** Caverdale Group, Laura Ashley Holdings, Polydoc, Seascope Shipping Holdings. **Economic statistics:** British Chambers of Commerce quarterly economic survey.

FRIDAY
Interims: ARM Holdings (q1), Barclays Global Investment. **Finals:** Saltire. **Economic statistics:** none scheduled.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: **Buy** Centrica, Bass, Ardagh, Pilat Technologies, Citadel Holdings; **Sell** Selfridges. *The Sunday Telegraph*: **Buy** Tesco, Countrywide Assured, British Borneo, TBI, VFG; **Sell** Wyevale Garden; **Hold** Cranswick. *The Mail on Sunday*: **Buy** Aukett Associates, BOC, Arjo Wiggins Appleton. *Sunday Express*: **Buy** Baldwins, AEA Technology, Peterhouse Group; **Hold** P&O, BWI.





MICHAEL CLARK

Referral casts shadow over Tesco

TESCO: Final results from Britain's biggest supermarket chain tomorrow are likely to be overshadowed by the referral of the food retailers to the Competition Commission.

Even so, brokers are looking for another impressive performance from the group, with estimates of pre-tax profits ranging from £860 million to £870 million. The comparative figure for the previous 52 weeks is £817 million and £832 million for the actual 53 week period reported.

The dividend will come in at 4.2p, up from last year's 3.9p.

Total sales growth for the year of about 7 per cent is forecast with a like-for-like sales increase of about 3.5 per cent, slightly up on the figures released by the group in its trading statement on January 18. These figures showed total sales growth of 6.5 per cent in the 20 weeks to January 2, with like-for-like sales up 3.1 per cent.

Total sales over the crucial six-week Christmas period were 7.4 per cent ahead or up 4.1 per cent on a like-for-like basis.

Tesco has decided against giving current trading updates with either full or half-year results and is, instead, updating the City on a quarterly basis and continuing to issue the Christmas trading statement.

Brokers will be looking for any changes to its Clubcard loyalty scheme, after reports that it is to be relaunched in the summer.

Analysts will also be seeking information on the uptake of Tesco's free Internet service as well as news on growth plans for its overseas operations in the wake of the referral to the Competition Commission.



Terry Leahy, chief executive of Tesco, is expected to report another set of encouraging figures, with sales up about 7 per cent

Tesco recently bolstered its position in Asia by forming a joint venture with Samsung to develop hypermarkets in South Korea with Tesco holding 81 per cent. It also operates stores in the Irish Republic and central Europe.

BT Alex Brown, the broker, rates the stock a "strong buy" and expects strategic returns from overseas diversification to start to flow through after 2002, but said that further growth in the UK "should ensure a steady earnings stream". It is forecasting pre-tax profits of £870.2 million.

SG Securities is looking for £870 million with a dividend of 4.1p while Teather & Greenwood is also looking for £870 million.

PETER BLACK: Final results from the leisure retailer on Tuesday will include the actual eight-month and pro-forma 12-month figures to January 31, 1999. There should be no surprises after Gordon Black, chairman, reported in mid-February that pre-tax profits for the year to January 31 would be not less than £21.7 million. Williams de Broë's Jeremy Hilditch is forecasting a rise in the dividend to 7.6p from 7p following earnings of 23.2p, compared with 21.4p.

RIVA GROUP: Brokers were warned in January that the group does not expect pre-tax profits for the year ended December 31 to exceed £700,000 as a result of charges relating to a decision to exit from direct operations in Spain and Denmark. That compares with £1.3 for million 1997.

The exceptional costs of this action remain uncertain, but the impact on the group's profits is unlikely to exceed £1 million. The group achieved a strong performance in its operations in the UK and France and Benelux, but had a disappointing December, with the anticipated revenues for three projects moving out of December and into the new year.

No dividend is anticipated.

SERVOMEX: The final third of the group's financial year is a key period representing about 70 of per cent of group revenues and profitability.

When the expected level of revenue generation in this important period failed to materialise, this electronic and electrical equipment group — currently in offer talks — was forced to issue a second trading statement stating that profitability in 1998 would be substantially lower than the previous year.

It also became apparent that further exceptional costs would be needed to restructure the business and lower its cost base to meet lower demand levels.

Brokers fear that with net debt rising to £5.2 million for the year end, interest cover falls to 2.8 times and that may mean a reduction in the final dividend from 9½p to 3½p with earnings down from 20.3p to 7p.

Pre-tax profits of £1 million are forecast, struck before restructuring charges of about £750,000. In 1997, Servomex made £2.95 million.

WARDLE STOREYS: Half-year results, due out today, are likely to show pre-tax profits up from £5.4 million to £5.7 million on sales down 10 per cent at £53 million. The group, which supplies inflatable systems and emergency escape drops, is also expected to raise the payout from 7p to 7½p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

After last week's quarter-point rate cut, the markets will be waiting for evidence of whether the Bank's rate cutting spree has further to go. However, with only a limited amount of data scheduled for release this week it is unlikely that any clear picture will emerge.

The most interesting release will be the British Chambers of Commerce quarterly survey on Thursday. The survey, which is regarded as the most comprehensive examination of the business climate, is not expected to reveal any startling information but should suggest that recovery remains tentative. The Bank received a draft version ahead of last week's meeting and so it may have influenced its decision.

Today, the British Retail Consortium should provide fresh evidence that consumer spending is beginning to pick up as confidence improves with high street sales benefiting.

The German January manufacturing data, which is released today, is likely to be viewed as justifying the ECB's half-point cut last week. MMS International, the economics forecasting group, estimates that pan-German monthly production will decline by 0.5 per cent.

In the US, the only data of great note are the inflation figures released tomorrow. While short-term fears that the Federal Reserve may be forced to tighten rates are unlikely to disappear, a small increase in the inflation rate to 0.3 per cent should not worry the markets too much.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

MPs begin inquiry into branded goods' prices

By Saeed Shah

THE high price of branded goods is likely to come under fire this week in a Commons investigation that is expected to call for a change in trademark law.

The influential Commons Trade and Industry Committee, chaired by Martin O'Neill, will begin hearing evidence on Wednesday on "trading, trademarks and competition" in an inquiry that will focus primarily on "parallel" imports.

These are branded goods sourced unofficially outside the European Union and sold at discount prices. Under current European law, manufacturers have the power to control such imports, but the MPs are likely to attack this as being a way of keeping prices up.



O'Neill: to hear evidence

The European Commission has also said that it is concerned by manufacturers using a law meant to protect their goods from being copied as a way to restrict supply and so maintain high prices.

Typical parallel imports include designer goods such as well-known makes of perfume, jeans and sunglasses.

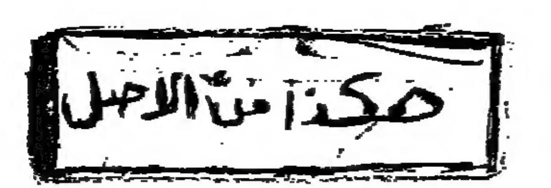
The inquiry follows the committee's investigation of car prices in the UK last year. The MPs' strongly worded report found that British buyers pay 35 per cent more for cars than consumers on the Continent and called for prison sentences for car manufacturers and dealers who systematically overcharge.

Lindsay Hoyle, Labour MP for Chorley and a member of the committee, promised a "robust" report, due in the summer, to put pressure on the Department of Trade and Industry for a change in the law.

He said: "The consumer is being ripped off, whether it's for CDs or cars. There is a general ethos that you can charge more in the UK, and this is not acceptable."

Gas complaints rise

COMPLAINTS and inquiries to the Gas Consumers Council rose to record levels last year amid fears that gas companies are rushing into business with poor customer service (Christine Buckley writes). GCC staff dealt with 300,000 inquiries — an 8 per cent increase on the previous year — as competition in the household market became established throughout the country. Serious complaints leapt by 36 per cent to 60,479. The majority of complaints concerned household supplies.



Defending the indefensible



ROGER BOOTLE

Amid all the horrors of Kosovo, the economic and financial aspects have naturally received scant attention. But for anyone who thinks about government finances, these events should raise serious questions about an issue once regarded as of supreme importance but which has hardly figured in recent public debate; namely, what proportion of our national income we should properly devote to defence.

In relative terms, Britain has made a significant contribution to the current Nato campaign against Serbia. But the absolute number of aircraft involved is small. Of course, this is partly the result of a deliberate decision to minimise the risk of British losses, but it is partly the result of necessity. For small though the numbers are, they form a significant part of Britain's total forces. Given that we are simultaneously deploying forces in far-flung parts of the world, our resources are severely stretched.

So what, you might say. There are still those who think that any defence spending is money down the drain and anything saved from the defence budget is an unalloyed benefit. Let us hope, for the sake of consistency, if nothing else, that such people take a thoroughly non-interventionist view in the current situation in the Balkans — and elsewhere.

A more common view is that Britain's small Armed Forces are simply the inevitable result of her reduced importance in the world. At the beginning of this century, Britain was still the world's leading economic power. At the end of it, she is the world's fifth-largest.

But hold on. This is only part of the story. Britain may be a lot smaller than she was, but fifth-largest is not tiny. Yet look at any of the actual or potential conflicts with countries, such as Serbia, whose GDP barely ranks on the world scale at all, and our military resources look remarkably small. Apologists would say that there is a vast difference in quality, and they have a point. But the real reason is quite different. We no longer spend much on defence.

The absolute amount sounds impressive enough — some £22 billion a year. This makes it the fourth-largest consumer of taxpayers' money. But the Government spends four times as much on social security as it does on defence. Spending on defence amounts to about £400 a year for each person in the country — roughly the cost of a cheap package holiday to the sun, or three times the average person's annual expenditure on the National Lottery.

Moreover, real spending on defence is set to fall by 3.6 per cent this year, and by a further 2 per cent over the following two years. With the economy growing strongly, this means that the share of the country's GDP spent on defence is set to fall sharply. Twenty five years ago, it was 6 per cent. At the time of the Falklands conflict it was still 5 per cent. As recently as five years ago it was 3.3 per cent. It is now down to 2.5 per cent. If we had simply maintained defence at the share it had five years ago, current spending would be 30 per cent higher — implying 30 per cent more planes, ships and troops.

The numbers in the Armed Forces are now at pitifully low levels. All three services combined now total just under 220,000. Six years ago the figure was 50,000 higher. The Army is now so small that it would very nearly fit into Wembley Stadium. The Royal Navy would be positively rattling around. As for the Royal Marines, they are now surely outnumbered by the burgeoning ranks of stress counsellors.

Why have we allowed this situation to develop? Because if the world were a safe and secure place then defence spending could properly be regarded as pure waste, and when the country is not engaged in a war, it is tempting to believe that the world is a safe place. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, it was widely believed that we could enjoy a "peace dividend" in the shape of lower defence spending, implying the scope for reduced taxation and/or increased spending on other things. To shrewd judges, this always looked like an illusion. In many ways the world had become a more dangerous place. Yet spending on defence continued to be pruned.

There were other illusions, namely that high technology would provide both effective and cheap protection, and that even if it didn't, someone else — Uncle Sam — would continue to do the job. Yet the US has also made some massive cuts, to the point where its defence expenditure is now less than 3.5 per cent of GDP. In Europe there is a fond idea that by pooling European resources we can come to some impressive numbers. Yet Italy, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium and Spain spend less than 2 per cent of their GDP on defence. In terms of expenditure per head of the population, the US spends two-and-a-half times as much as Germany, three times as much as Belgium and four times as much as Canada. How much longer are the American people going to be prepared to foot the bill for other countries' protection?

The upshot is plain. Defence just cannot safely be squeezed any further. Indeed, if the world continues to develop on current lines, then public opinion will have to be prepared for a significant increase in defence spending. The implications could be significant — not only for government finances but also for the defence industries and the jobs market for young people. Forget the "peace dividend". We have effectively spent it several times already. It may soon be time to ask for some of the money back.

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Profits surge at Savoy after revamp of hotels

BY DOMINIC WALSH

THE Savoy Group will today reveal a surge in profits that will provide comfort to Blackstone and Colony Capital, the American investment firm that paid an astonishing £520 million for the hotel group last May.

The posh and highly conservative hotel chain will report a 39 per cent jump in gross trading profits excluding exceptionals to £41 million, from turnover up 10.6 per cent to £112.7 million.

Its pre-tax profits rose 23 per cent to £28.7 million, while revenue per available room rose 16 per cent to £211 as the effects of a £90 million refurbishment programme kicked in.

This was most marked at Claridge's, one of its four London hotels, where the completion of a £42 million revamp boosted sales by 38 per cent and operating profit by 99 per cent.

Ramon Pajares, managing director, said the group continued to invest on improvements. Some £2 million will be spent upgrading the Lancaster ballroom and two private banqueting suites at the Savoy, and a similar amount is being spent at the Simpson's In The Strand restaurant.

Mr Pajares said trading in London was still buoyant, with operating profit in the first three months of 1999 some £1.2 million higher year on year. He said there had been no impact from the Yugoslav crisis but admitted: "If the Russians get involved, people might get nervous. But so far, there has been no negative effect."

A revaluation of the group's properties, which have now been transferred to separate legal entities, has lifted the net asset value from £391 million to £580 million. Mr Pajares said: "This reflects the restoration programme and investment we have done, the higher gross trading profits of the group and the profitability we have forecast for 1999."

He admitted that, in the context of what the new owners had paid for the group, the revaluation "gives them some comfort". He said Blackstone continued to evaluate opportunities to acquire further hotels but nothing was imminent.

The sale of the Savoy Group to Blackstone and the subsequent restructuring resulted in exceptional costs of £7 million.

Biotech fund set for 3i move

THE investment group 3i is the favourite to win the contract to manage Biotechnology Investments Limited (BIL), the large offshore fund advised by RBU, NM Rothschild's bioscience unit (Paul Durman writes).

BIL is seeking a new manager after failing to agree a merger with International Biotechnology Trust, a UK investment trust and the RBU's other flagship fund. The endless wrangling between the boards of BIL and IBT contributed to Rothschild's decision to withdraw from the biotech sector.

The decision to appoint 3i is understood to have angered Domain Associates, which advises BIL on private American investments. At one stage in the IBT negotiations, BIL proposed awarding Domain its management contract. One source close to the parties said Domain is considering legal action against BIL.

Last week IBT said its £60 million of investments will in future be managed by Merlin Bioscience — a new firm that will be created when senior members of the RBU, including Jeremy Curnock Cook, join Merlin Ventures, the biotech investment group headed by Chris Evans, founder of Chiroscience and Celsis International. IBT intends to continue taking advice from Domain.

Both BIL and IBT have performed badly over the past two years.

RICHARD CANNON



Martin Myerscough, designer of a revolutionary new washing machine, has done a deal with a UK-based manufacturer

Numbers man aims to clean up

BY JASON NISSÉ

MARTIN MYERSCOUGH, an accountant with a biotechnology background, will today disclose that he has achieved what James Dyson, the vacuum cleaner entrepreneur, has so far been unable to do — design and launch a revolutionary new washing machine.

Mr Myerscough and his company, Monotub Industries, have beaten Mr Dyson to the post with the launch this morning of Monotub's Titan washing machine at the Design Museum in London.

Mr Dyson, whose Dyson Appliances company sells more than £100 million worth of his distinctive vacuum cleaners each year, has long suggested that his next product would be a washing machine.

Monotub's Titan launch is the culmination of six years' work, which began when a washing machine engineer complained to Mr Myerscough about design faults of the front-loaded washers that dominate the UK and European markets. Mr Myerscough, who is finance director of KS Biomedix, the biotechnology group, drew on his original training as a marine engineer to produce what he says is the first newly designed washing machine since the 1960s.

Novel features include the ability to halt a wash at any point in the cycle — just like US-style, top-loaded washers — plus capacity 40 per cent greater than most machines and a removable basket so that you do not have to tug wet items of washing out of it.

Monotub has raised £750,000, largely from private investors, and has signed a deal with a big, UK-based manufacturer. It has the backing of one of the two main makers of washing powder, and a chairman with washing-machine industry experience — Michael Hearn, former head of Servis.

The launch will be followed by meetings with retailers such as John Lewis and Comet, and Mr Myerscough expects the Titan to be in the shops by summer 2000 at £550 to £600. This premium price will pitch it against products of AEG and Bosch of Germany in a market sector in which 400,000 machines a year are sold in the UK. Monotub says that it can make a profit selling just 12,000 a year.

Dyson remains unruffled. "We are working on a number of new products," it said. "We have not specifically mentioned a washing machine."

Japanese bank in trouble

Japanese regulators have taken over Kokumin Bank, a regional bank which suffered a run on deposits after investigators found it had a negative net worth of between $400 million and $600 million.

Japan's Financial Reconstruction Committee said the bank would be put under state control to assess its loan book. The FRC said it would seek a buyer after transferring its bad loans to a government debt collection agency. The failure of Kokumin Bank, which had deposits of $4.3 billion, could be a signal that more regional banks will hit the buffers soon.

Directors more optimistic

Business optimism has returned to levels last seen a year ago, a new survey published today reveals. The Institute of Directors business confidence survey shows that the balance of directors feeling more optimistic about their companies climbed from 7 per cent in December to 40 per cent in March. Other survey indicators, including employment and output balances, also ticked higher, while cost and pay pressures remain weak. The balance of companies reporting improved profits also hit the best levels seen since December 1997.

Greenalls deal

Greenalls, the pub and hotel operator, is poised to announce the acquisition of Dunston Hall hotel and golf course near Norwich for about £15 million. The 72-room property is one of half a dozen golf-based hotels targeted by Greenalls in a move to expand its De Vere Hotels division.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 40

ADONIZE
(b) Of men: to make an Adonis of, to adorn, to dandify. Both transitive and intransitive. "Three good hours, at least, in adjusting and adonizing myself."

BASKE
(c) To strike with a bruising blow. A variant of *bash*, adaptation of the Danish *baske*. 1642: "Temptations, crosses, discouragements, which many others are basked withall."

BROGGLE
(c) To continue poking with a stick or pointed instrument in a hole. Also, specifically, to fish for eels, by thrusting a stick with a baited hook into the holes and under the stones where they lie. Apparently a frequentative of the Gaelic *brog*, an awl. "A way to catch eels by Broggling. Go into some shallow place of the river among the great stones, and broggle up and down until you find holes under the stones."

ANGELET
(c) A gold coin, half the value of an angel. From the Old French and Italian diminutives of *angel*. 1608: "Flear's wife offered one of them one hundred angelets to let him escape."

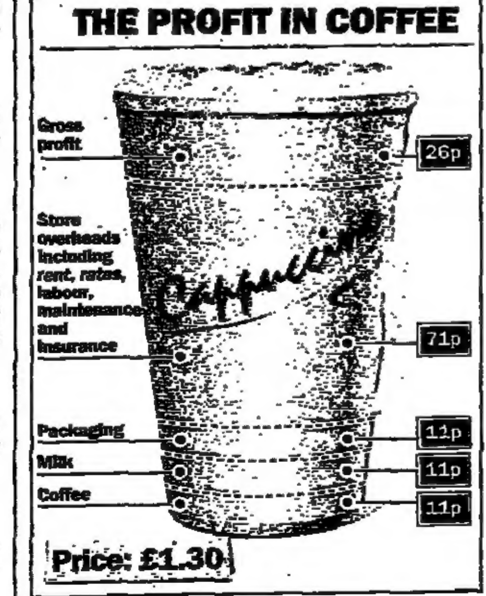
SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1, Qxb7! creates decisive threats against the back rank (1. ... Qxb7; 2, Rxe8+ and mates) and even 1. ... Nc7 does not help, eg. 2, Rxe8+ Rxe8; 3, Rxe8+ and Black loses a piece.

Costa stirs up coffee battle

BY DOMINIC WALSH

THE PROFIT IN COFFEE



COSTA, the upmarket coffee bar chain owned by Whitbread, is turning up the heat in the battle of the espresso bars with plans to open more than 50 units in the next 12 months in an attempt to stay ahead of a new wave of market entrants led by Starbucks of the US, Scottish & Newcastle and McDonald's.

Whitbread bought out the Costa Brothers business in October 1995 for an estimated £15 million to £25 million. In the same year an American couple, Scott and Ally Svenson, decided to launch their own chain in London, calling it Seattle Coffee Company. The move was followed by Coffee Republic, set up by a lawyer, Sahar Hashemi, and her brother, Bobby, an investment banker, who saw a gap in the market.

Almost three years on, Costa, Seattle and Coffee Republic are the clear leaders in a market comprising about 300 outlets, most of them in London. All are ploughing ahead with vigorous expansion plans. Under Whitbread, Costa has tripled its turnover to almost £40 million. Scottish & Newcastle has recently dipped a toe in the water by developing its own concept called Espres and last month bought ten sites from Sofra, the Turkish café operator, for an estimated £2.5 million.

The most surprising development was last month's £10 million-plus acquisition by McDonald's of the 23-strong Aroma chain — only the second time the US fast food behemoth has strayed outside its burger format. McDonald's is planning 250 Aromas and even hints at an eventual move across the Channel.

Fears that the market is overheating are countered by a recent report from Mintel, the market researcher, which suggests that there is scope for at least 1,500 coffee bars over the next three to four years.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.65	2.47
Austria Sch	21.47	19.81
Belgium Fr	63.21	58.25
Canada $	2.530	2.342
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9047	0.8332
Denmark Kr	11.65	10.76
Egypt	5.69	5.08
Finland Mkk	9.40	8.65
France Fr	10.23	9.45
Germany Dm	3.073	2.831
Greece Dr	507	468
Hong Kong $	13.27	12.07
Iceland	129	109
Indonesia	17630	12630
Ireland Pt	1.2262	1.1372
Israel Shk	6.83	6.17
Italy Lira	3058	2819
Japan Yen	209.68	192.15
Malta	0.673	0.614
Netherlds Gld	3.469	3.174
New Zealand $	3.15	2.91
Norway Kr	13.12	12.18
Portugal Esc	310.82	288.79
S Africa Rd	10.57	9.61
Spain Pta	259.08	240.27
Sweden Kr	14.09	12.99
Switzerland Fr	2.533	2.315
Turkey Lira	623472	582031
USA $	1.713	1.570

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US Dollar
1.6058 (+0.0008)
Euro
0.6711 (–0.0026)
Exchange index
102.6 (+0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
3942.2 (+103.4)
FTSE 100
6472.8 (+139.8)
New York Dow Jones
10173.84 (+341.33)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
16855.63 (+528.07)

Foundation is laid for Tiny's Zimbabwe legacy

Jason Nissé on how the late Lonrho tycoon's memory will live on with launch of charitable trust

The Harare headquarters of Lonrho is in a two-storey, Art Deco building with an attractive courtyard, dwarfed by the skyscraper blocks around it in the city's small central business district. On the front it has two signs. One says "Lonrho, 1910", signifying the heritage of the group which started life as the London and Rhodesian Mining Company. The other is a "To Let" sign, showing that less than eight months after the death of Tiny Rowland, the influence of the pan-African conglomerate he created is on the wane in the country where it started.

The Zimbabwean markets are eagerly awaiting the sale of David Whitehead, the textile business controlled by Lonrho Africa, as the part of the empire which still has interests in Zimbabwe is called.

At the same time, Josie Rowland, Tiny's widow, who grew up in Zimbabwe, and the mogul's four children, Toby, Anda, Louisa and Plum, are involved in setting up the Rowland Foundation. The foundation is an educational trust which aims to give Tiny Rowland the sort of immortality that Cecil Rhodes enjoys through the Rhodes Scholarships he endowed.

The Rowland Foundation was launched a few days ago at the University of Zimbabwe, where the British-registered charity is to invest more than £3 million in building a new library and business department at the law faculty, endowing a chair of business law and sponsoring 20 students to study at the university.

Once this project is up and running, the foundation is planning other endowments, using its own funds, which are estimated at about £100 million, and those of the Kellogg Foundation, which is supporting the initiative. Dirk Mueller-Ingrand, the Rowland Foundation's managing director, has been in talks with the universities of Pretoria and the Witwatersrand in South Africa about setting up similar projects and wants to spread a network of educational trusts through the continent, rather like Tiny Rowland spread Lonrho's influence from Nigeria to Mozambique and — more controversially — from Cape Town to Tripoli.

"We don't want our endowments to be like Rhodes Scholarships," Mrs Rowland explained at the foundation's launch. "They cost £20,000 each to send a student to England. The student often does not come back to Africa and does not contribute to the local economy. We can sponsor 20 students for that amount, and they are likely to stay in Zimbabwe."


NICK CORNISH

Tiny Rowland, with wife Josie, was described by Robert Mugabe as a "true friend of Africa"

The comparison between Tiny Rowland and the founder of the De Beers diamond empire is something that comes up quite often when you talk to African business people. The two men operated in similar places and with similar methods. Both were viewed with suspicion by the City of London yet were treated like royalty in Africa. However, Rhodes, unlike Rowland, enjoyed the support of the British Government and history has honoured his memory. Josie Rowland hopes posterity might be as kind to Tiny.

Certainly, in Zimbabwe his name carries much more of a cachet than it ever had in the UK. The Rowland Foundation launch drew a good smattering of the country's top brass — including the President, Robert Mugabe; the Industry Minister, Edison Zvobgo; and the Higher Education and Technology Minister, Ignatius Chombo.

Their appearance at the University of Zimbabwe caused some caustic comments. After all, the President had closed down the campus for a large part of last summer after a student protest in June, and one of the law professors, Peter Hughes, was a leader of the protests supporting the Zimbabwean judiciary when it stood up to the Government over the imprisonment and torture of two journalists late last year.

Given this, the Rowland Foundation launch was an exceedingly polite affair. In his speech, President Mugabe described the late tycoon in glowing terms. "In our hearts we cherish the memory of Tiny as a true friend of Africa, a true friend of Zimbabwe," he said. Mr Zvobgo added: "He [Tiny] really felt that those who were oppressed, if they really wanted to do something about it, he would help them."

These charitable words show how Tiny won over the Zimbabwean hierarchy, who were quite hostile to him when they gained control of the country in 1980.

Although Tiny Rowland was a genuine opponent of minority rule in Africa, President Mugabe had been angered by Rowland's support of Joshua Nkomo, one of the other main leaders of the black groups which fought against the Ian Smith regime in Rhodesia. He had been won round by positive comments he received in the press from *The Observer* after it was bought by Lonrho.

Mr Zvobgo was also anti-Rowland, but he had been won over by less subtle means. According to Tom Bower's biography of Tiny Rowland — *A Rebel Tycoon* — Mr Zvobgo's wife was hired by Lonrho as a consultant, and he was lent money by Rowland to buy a farm. To cap it all, Rowland agreed that Mr Zvobgo's nephew, Godwin Matatu, would be hired as *The Observer's* African correspondent, based in Harare.

The late tycoon's ways of doing business were undoubtedly controversial. But in Africa this is seen as part of the process. One Harare businessman, who preferred not to be named, put it bluntly: "Every Western company which does business in this part of the world oils the wheels. If they do not, the wheels stop turning."

The oiling of the wheels did not necessarily mean bribes. For example, Tiny Rowland helped to pay for the education of Sam Jonah, a well-connected Ghanaian who wanted to study mining. Mr Jonah later became chairman of Ashanti Goldfields. Lonrho was able to buy a stake in Ashanti for £2 million in the 1970s. This stake is now worth more than 50 times that.

These days, however, the Harare business community is trying to clean up its act. The financial community is just recovering from the collapse of the United Merchant Bank, which overextended itself trading in bankers' acceptances for the state-owned Cold Storage Company. There have been a series of insider trading scandals, though this is not yet a crime in Zimbabwe.

President Mugabe promised new banking regulation and a strong legal framework for business as part of his way of remembering Tiny Rowland. For her part, Josie Rowland said that the Rowland Foundation existed to see "how we can develop business excellence in Zimbabwe in the spirit of the founder".

That should foster an interesting new generation of entrepreneurs.

TELEVISION CHOICE

A tale of redemption

Great Expectations
BBC2, 9pm

Although the cinematography is often ravishing, this is no chocolate-box adaptation of the great Dickens novel. Tony Marchant's screenplay is anything but cosy and Julian Jarrold's direction keeps the narrative moving briskly along in this two-parter (concluded tomorrow). Gabriel Thompson makes a fine young Pip, living on the Thames marshes with his embittered, hectoring sister (Lesley Sharp) and gentle giant Joe (Clive Russell). Bernard Hill is a less monstrous Magwitch than some of his illustrious predecessors in the role, but the terror of his encounter with Pip is still genuine. The two main surprises are how effective Ioan Gruffudd is as the older Pip, and how well Marchant and Charlotte Rampling handle the matter of Miss Havisham, the jilted bride and 30-year recluse, whose adopted daughter Estella (Gemma Gregory and later, Justine Waddell) becomes Pip's obsession.

Mystery of the Mummies
Channel 4, 8pm

This archaeological detective story sets out to establish a connection between the pre-Hispanic inhabitants of the Canary Islands, or "Guanches", and the Ancient Egyptians. The basis is principally their shared practice of mummifying the corpses and installing them in rock tombs. Many of the Egyptian techniques are identical with those of the Guanches, whose work was less refined because of local resources. By comparing mummies, visiting Canarian sites and finally locating, in Morocco, Berber tombs which prove to be a halfway house between Egypt and the Canaries, the Egyptologist Dr Joann Fletcher and the archaeologist Mike Eddy make a convincing case, even roping in Thor Heyerdahl in support of their ideas.

Sikhs
BBC2, 7pm and 11.25pm

There are 20 million Sikhs around the world, 500,000 in Britain, and this two-part film is as thorough and polished a picture of the history of the religion and its adherents as they (and those of us who are not) could wish. The producer/directors John Das, Inderjit Nagra and Parmjit Gill have assembled some terrific (often harrowing) archive footage, a collection of articulate and authoritative individual Sikhs of all generations and backgrounds, and have marshalled the various elements into a clear, easily followed story.

Justine Waddell, Charlotte Rampling, Ioan Gruffudd: *Great Expectations* (BBC2, 9pm)

Equinox: Living Dangerously
Channel 4, 9pm

Risk is something we seem to be obsessed with, but whereas some of us live in fear of mugging, BSE or simply venturing out of doors, others, such as base jumpers, who leap from tower blocks wearing parachutes, seek ever more extreme risks. There is evidence that our levels of an enzyme called mono amine oxidase (MAO) control our tolerance of and liking for risk, and that young men are biologically more likely to be risk-takers. This much would be enough for one film, but it goes on to assess the actual risks of everyday life, and it becomes clear that we are more likely to die falling out of bed or down the stairs at home than from Aids or new variant CJD. **Tony Patrick**

RADIO CHOICE

Afternoon Play: Dossier Ronald Akkerman
Radio 4, 2.15pm

"I liked the funeral, didn't you? How about some coffee?" Mundane questions, you'll agree. But in the context of Suzanne Van Lohuizen's play, they are as unearthly as the conversations between the ghost (Alan Rickman) and his living lover (Juliet Stevenson) in Anthony Minghella's film *Truly, Madly, Deeply*. The ghost in *Dossier Ronald Akkerman* is that of a journalist (Christopher Staines) who has died of Aids. Kelly Hunter plays the nurse who ministers to him during his illness. Pre and post-mortem, their relationship is perceptively summed up by the ghost as "a kind of marriage in which we are condemned to each other". Supernatural plays such as this one don't always work. This one does.

Sound Stories
Radio 3, 11am

There is no reason why these words-and-music treats should not go on for ever. The well from which they draw their inspiration must be bottomless. Yet the formula is classically simple. Take a subject — anything from cathedrals to music critics. Then get someone like Peggy Reynolds, Richard Baker or Donald Macleod to draw a sketch of the subject before going on to introduce musical items that grow out of it. This week it's architects and today's subject is Christopher Wren. Peggy Reynolds is the presenter. **Peter Davalle.**

Contrary to a statement in BBC publicity material, repeated in Friday's preview of *Feedback*, Roger Bolton is no longer a BBC employee.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **3.00pm** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Lamacq Live. Trevor Nelson presents a feature on Sean "Puffy" Coombs. Plus, Radiohead in a concert for Amnesty International **12.00** The Breezeblock **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Richard Allinson **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **8.00** Big Band Special **8.30** Jools Holland **9.30** Joe Brown: Let It Rock (2/13) **10.30** Lynn Parsons **12.00** Katrina Leskanich **3.00am** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Midday News **1.00pm** Ian Payne **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Wembley Winners. Peter Slater looks back at the 1980 FA Cup final between West Ham and Arsenal **8.00** Trevor Brooking's Monday Match. Leeds United v Liverpool. Plus, a round up of news from the continent **10.00** Late Night Live with Nick Robinson **1.00am** Up All Nights

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm & Sally James **12.00** Let's Talk Soap **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Cricket: England v Pakistan **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am The Breakfast Show **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Gary Davies **1.00am** Richard Allen **4.30** Phil Kennedy

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **6.00** The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Talking Point **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** World Business Report **8.15** Coffee- A Hellish Brew **8.30** Everywoman **9.00** World News **9.05** Record News **9.20** Off the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping **9.35** Health Matters **10.00** World News **10.05** Business Class **10.20** Counterpoint **10.50** Sports Round-Up **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Britain Today **11.45** World Business Report **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Pick of the World **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.45** Sports Round-Up **2.00** Newshour **3.00** World News **3.05** Health Matters **3.30** Meridian **4.00** World News **4.05** Sports Roundup **4.15** Soundbyte **4.30** Composer Of the Month **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Insight **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** The Way We Are **6.45** Sports Round-Up **7.00** World News **7.15** Britain Today **7.30** The Khalsa **8.00** World News **8.05** Health Matters **8.30** The Farming World **8.45** Off the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World News **10.05** World Business Report **10.20** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian **11.00** World News **11.15** Sports Round-Up **11.30** The U.K. Top Twenty **12.00** World News **12.05am** Outlook **12.45** Insight **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Health Matters **1.55** My Century **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Westway **2.45** Record News **3.00** The World Today **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.20** Sports **4.30** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Favourite musical works, plus regular information updates **9.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00** Lunchtime Requests **2.00pm** Concerto. Parker (Concerto for Clarinet and Strings) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. John Brunning presents the latest stories **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. Two hours of soothing sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Dohnanyi (Variations on a Nursery Song. Glazunov (Chopiniana Suite for large Orchestra); Reger (Variations and Fugue on a theme by Mozart); Kodaly (Variations on a Hungarian Folksong) **11.00** Mann at Night. Wind down with the sound of ambient music **2.00am** Concerto (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Petroc Trelawny presents music and arts news, including a report on the Bafta awards
9.00 Masterworks With Peter Hobday. Beethoven (Overture: The Ruins of Athens); Bartok (Violin Concerto No 1); Mozart, compl Sussmayr Requiem in D *minor*, K626)
10.30 Artist of the Week This week Joan Bakewell talks to the British pianist Moura Lympany
11.00 Sound Stories: Architects See Choice
12.00 Composer of the Week: J.C. Bach
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from the Wigmore Hall, London. Angela Hewitt, piano J.S. Bach (Goldberg Variations)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. Beethoven (Symphony No 2 in D), under Osmo Vanska. Brahms (Double Concerto in A minor), under Martyn Brabbins, with Stephanie Gonley, violin, Timothy Hugh, cello. Beethoven (Symphony No 3 in E flat, Eroica), under Osmo Vanska
4.00 Opera in Action Graeme Kay presents six programmes on the mechanics of opera
5.00 In Tune Humphrey Carpenter looks at the work of the Polish composer Grazyna Bacewicz
7.30 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century) A concert from the Royal Philharmonic's series *Mahler - The Spectacle* at the Albert Hall, London. In this performance, given last month, Giuseppe Sinopoli conducts two works. With Iris Vermillion, contralto, Keith Lewis, tenor. Mahler (Symphony No 10, 1st mvt; Das Lied von der Erde)
9.20 Postscript: Seamus Heaney at 60 Five programmes celebrating and reassessing the poetry of Seamus Heaney
9.40 Mozart (Duo in G, K423). Mark Lubotsky, violin, Nobuko Imai, viola
10.00 Voices Iain Burnside traces changes in songs written before and after the First World War
11.00 Night Waves Tim Marlow visits the Kandinsky exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts
11.30 Jazz Notes This week, Alyn Shipton presents a four-part jazz parade from the Chichester Festival Theatre, featuring some of the best mainstream talent. Tonight, the Best of British Jazz Band, led by Kenny Baker, trumpet, and Don Lusher, trombone
12.00 Through the Night 12.05 Chopin (Nocturnes in B, Op 32; in C sharp minor) **12.15** Liszt (Les preludes) **12.35** Istvan Vantus (Concerto grosso) **12.50** Davorin Kempf (Zvukolik) **1.00** Webern, Shostakovich, Johann Strauss (son) **2.10** Schumann (Symphony No 3 in E flat, Rharish) **2.55** Frederik van Rossum (Violin Concerto No 1) **3.10** Brahms (Piano Trio in C, Op 87) **3.45** Bach (Partita No 3 in E, BWV1006) **4.05** Music by William and Henry Lawes **4.15** Pierre de la Rue (Missa Sancto Job) **4.50** Shostakovich, arr Kain (The Age of Gold) **5.00** Delibes (Suite: Sylvia) **5.20** Canales (Quartet in D, Op 3 No 1) **5.45** Sweelinck (Psalm 144)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Presented by Charlotte Smith
6.00 Today with Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie
9.00 Start the Week Hosted by Jeremy Paxman
9.45 (FM) Serial: Choice Chatwin The first in a week of readings from Bruce Chatwin's books
9.45 (LW) Daily Service With the Coventry Cathedral Chapterhouse Choir. Director of music Paul Leddington Wright
10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney and guests. Includes part five of *Diary of a Provincial Lady*
11.00 Mapping the Town New series. The archaeologist Julian Richards traces towns' links with the past, beginning with a history of Coventry from the Middle Ages to the 20th century (1/4)
11.30 Full Moon Prue is exiled to Blandings Castle. Second part of P.G. Wodehouse's comic tale. With Giles Havergal and Paul Birchard (2/4)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Consumer news and stories, with Liz Barclay and John Waite
1.00 The World at One News round-up
1.30 Mastermind General knowledge quiz
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Dossier Ronald Akkerman Suzanne Van Lohuizen's drama. See Choice
3.00 Money Box Live: 0870 010 0444 Vincent Duggleby takes listeners' personal finance queries
3.30 A Name to Remember Barbara Myers tells the story of the medical pioneer James Parkinson, who gave his name to Parkinson's disease
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 71 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 The Food Programme Derek Cooper assesses the country's food industry (r)
4.30 Four Corners Jane Franchi and guests examine global issues with behind-the-headlines reports
5.00 PM with Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Quote, Unquote Popular quiz, with guests Robert Lacey, Saeed Jaffrey, Fran Landesman and John Sutherland. Chaired by Nigel Rees
7.00 The Archers Helen decides to take control
7.15 Front Row The arts programme
7.45 Diary of a Provincial Lady by E.M. Delafield. The daily journal of a well-organised 1930s housewife. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 Race to Do Better In the second of two programmes, Ferdinand Dennis examines how public and private organisations identify and tackle institutional racism (2/2)
8.30 Analysis Zeinab Badawi chairs a debate on the issues raised in the previous programme
9.00 Spring Watch Nick Baker travels from East Anglia to North Wales to chart the progress of spring
9.30 Start the Week Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight Robin Lustig presents
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Archangel Alan Howard reads part six of Robert Harris's thriller (6/10)
11.00 Late Night on 4: Voyage New series. First part of Stephen Baxter's tale. Having survived the Dallas assassination attempt, John F. Kennedy orders a manned mission to Mars. With Laurel Lefkow and Vincent Marzello
11.30 (FM) Crossing Continents Julian Pettifer visits Estonia, where an innovative scheme is intended to ease ethnic tensions (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
11.45 (LW) Parliamentary Postcard MPs talk about their experiences of democracy. People Power
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Earthly Joys Part six of Philippa Gregory's turbulent novel about the Jacobean gardener and adventurer John Tradescant. Read by Kevin Whately
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe

Absolutely abnormal and super: a tribute

"He was absolutely abnormal and super," recalled old friend Anthony Blond. "He was on a huge scale ... like Alexander the Great," he added later. This set the tone for **The Real James Goldsmith** (Channel 4, Sunday).

The programme was not uncritical. Richard Ingrams, the former *Private Eye* Editor whom Goldsmith tried to get imprisoned, was allowed to put in his three halfpennyworth. But most of the doubts about this bizarre and often menacing figure were contained in Leonie Jameson's densely packed commentary, read with his curiously tripping, plums-in-the-mouth precision by Simon Callow.

All the other contributors were falling over each other to tell us what a character "Jimmy" was, how passionate, how larger than life. It got like one of those Hollywood "tribute" shows, where we are told what a "huge, huge star" someone was by a chorus of other huge, huge stars. For stars substitute super-rich, far-right "mavericks", though "loonies" often seemed nearer the mark.

Goldsmith's life, his obsession with gambling, his desire for revenge on the British Establishment who ostracised his father during the Great War and on his first wife's family of snobbish Bolivian mine-owners, his pioneering of the most predatory forms of capitalism, his sexual profligacy and his multiple families, was always the stuff of newspaper tittle-tattle.

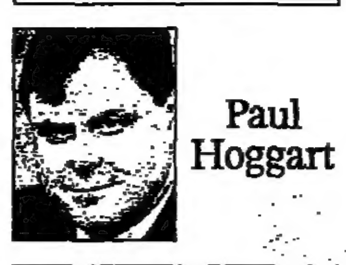
Goldsmith turned them into national issues, first by the unprecedented ferocity of his action against *Private Eye* and later by his forming the Referendum Party. Yet for all his wealth and drive, he could only wound, not destroy, his targets.

Two anecdotes stood out. He took revenge on his hated Eton housemaster by buying a pile of records of the man's favourite classical music, pretending to offer them to him, then smashing them on the ground. He lost patience with a waiter who didn't bring his smoked salmon fast enough at his friend John Aspinall's Clermont Club, fetched the whole fish himself and gnawed it from the bone. Impressive or what?

His sense of friendship, we were told, was heroic, like the Ancient Greeks or Lord Byron. None of his little coterie, for instance, seemed in any hurry to deny the idea that they had helped Lord Lucan to escape arrest on suspicion of the murder of his child's nanny.

Few people realised that he was already fighting cancer when he embarked on his last big project, the Referendum Party. Sadly that does not make his deportment during that campaign any less manic or embarrassing. For all that drive,

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

energy and aggression, this programme left us with a picture of a man maddened by the realisation of his own mediocrity.

It was suggested that **Rhinoceros** (ITV, Sunday) was a new departure for Robson Green, no longer the juvenile heart-throb, but taking an older, heavier role. True, he played Michael Flynn, a middle-aged former football star, whose career had been ruined by injury. As in *Reckless* he gets the beautiful older woman (there are a lot of dramas on this theme these days) only this time he's older, too.

Actually, Green has always played the same part. From the chirpy auxiliary of *Casualty* to *Soldier, Soldier* and *A Touch of Evil* he has managed to blend casual working-class machismo with a buried, vulnerable sensitivity. It is a potent mix, an archetype almost, and a gift to casting directors.

The press information described *Rhinoceros* as a "romantic comedy", which was puzzling because there were almost no jokes. It was actually a very serious and thoughtful piece, based on a true story, apparently, though how closely I have no idea.

Flynn has divorced his wife Julie (Niamh Cusack) and has not seen their mentally handicapped son Danny for many years. When Danny gets lost in the Welsh countryside on his first unaccompanied journey from his special school to visit Julie in London, the couple end up scouring the mountains for him in Flynn's red Porsche.

After exorcising their old rages and resentments, heart-warming reconciliation inevitably follows. But potentially soppy romance was lifted by the exploration of their emotional reactions to their child's disability and by their growing awareness of what was going on in Danny's head, particularly his stubborn determination to achieve something by himself. He was, in fact, absolutely abnormal and super.

Like Guy Fawkes after his arrest, it was perhaps unnecessarily elongated, but whatever other drivel it broadcasts, ITV still seems to make these middlebrow dramas more convincingly than any other channel.

After their successful pilot last summer Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer returned for a full series of **Families at War** (BBC1, Saturday). From *Opportunity Knocks* to *Stars In Their Eyes* there is a long tradition of talent shows patronising the pants off the participants. It was hard to see how the Geordie pan-fighters would cope, given their record for humiliating celebrities on *Shooting Stars*.

In the event it works superbly, because nobody pretends to take any of it seriously. The families seem to be drawn from places most of us have heard of, but never actually visited. The Feltons (hair-waxing, netball hoops and a motorbike stunt) came from Tamworth. The Greaveses from Worksop provided a schoolboy boxer who punched a garden shed to bits and a man who ran on a treadmill, carrying Leo Sayer on his back as he sang *When I Need You*. It was absolutely abnormal and super, and we sat in a row like the Simpsons, chortling inanely.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (20314)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (41763)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (9038218)
9.45 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (258473)
10.15 The Vanessa Show (T) (1045742)
11.00 News; Weather (T) (5982522)
11.05 City Hospital New series. Gaby Roslin and the team witness life at Southampton General (T) (9192251)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (5796134)
12.00 Going for a Song (7584021)
12.25pm Wipeout (4534706)
12.50 The Weather Show (T) (76950183)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (11522)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (58037928)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (16288725)
2.05 Ironside (r) (1176183)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (2142638)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (8572522) **3.45** Bob the Builder (4106386) **3.55** Wildlife (7144183) **4.00** Bodger & Badger (5856270) **4.15** Casper (7346763) **4.35** 50/50 (7577367) **5.00** Newsround (5509164) **5.10** Blue Peter (2360763)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (155218)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (367)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (947)
7.00 A Question of Sport: Sporting Heroes Special George Best, Jenny Pitman, Dickie Bird and Ilie Nastase take part in the light-hearted sports quiz. (T) (8744)
7.30 QED Special The story of the rescued chimp Trudy, who hit the headlines when her owner, Mary Chipperfield, was accused of cruelty towards it (T) (831)
8.00 EastEnders Pat springs a surprise on Roy (T) (4164)



Sally and Bob Skiba go self-catering in the French Alps (8.30pm)

8.30 Holiday Swaps Carol Smillie hosts a new travel programme (T) (3299)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (863744)
9.35 Jailbirds Problems faced by inmates who mutilate themselves (T) (860270)
10.05 Panorama Investigation into whether shoppers are being ripped off by international designer labels (T) (221611)
10.45 Animal Police The owners of 12 Yorkshire terriers are prosecuted (T) (400909)
11.15 Kiss and Tell (1996) Premiere. A wife's illusions of idyllic married life are shattered by the appearance of a stranger claiming to be her husband's mistress. Thriller, starring Cheryl Ladd. Directed by Andy Wolk (T) (336305)
12.45am Weather (1368313)
12.50 BBC News 24 (66388787)

WALES:

9.30-9.35 Party Election Broadcast (126473) **10.45 International Scrum V** (131218) **11.25 Animal Police** (T) (506638) **11.55 FILM: Kiss and Tell** (T) (565096) **1.25am News Headlines and Weather** (T) (5816023) **1.30-6.00 BBC News 24** (9807110)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Polka Dot Shorts (5437980) **7.10** The Silver Brumby (9993034) **7.35** Top Cat (8070164) **8.00** *The Bots Master* (5300676) **8.25** Help! It's the Hair Bear Bunch (8040928) **8.45** Blue Peter (9761473) **9.10** Goober and the Ghost Chasers (7019164) **9.35** Student Bodies (8774096) **10.00** *Teletubbies* (56793) **10.30** FILM: Moon Pilot (20287270) **12.10pm** The Car's the Star (7857980) **12.30** Working Lunch (52218) **1.00** Juniper Jungle (38262305)
1.10 The Leisure Hour (r) (1871909)
2.10 Awash with Colour Dermot Cavanagh presents (89943657)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (8354909)
2.45 On Cue with Steve Davis The 1994 World Championship final (5193541)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (5840947)
3.30 The Village (r) (2579947)
3.55 Kaye Advice shows (2554638)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (r) (T) (7162589)
4.55 Esther Agony aunts (T) (9354299)
5.30 Whose House? (116)
6.00 Hit, Miss or Maybe Zoe Ball and guests review three pop videos (r) (T) (639218)
6.15 The Simpsons Lisa takes offence at a new doll (r) (T) (331164)
6.35 The Simpsons Nasa decides to send an average American into space as a publicity stunt (r) (T) (323270)



Bhai Puran Singh (centre), the newly appointed Jatahedar Akaltakt (7pm)

7.00 CHOICE Sikhs Two-part documentary marking the 300th anniversary of the sacred order of the Khalsa. Concludes later tonight (1/2) (T) (4657)
8.00 Disaster The story of one of the world's worst radioactive spills — the Mexican disaster of 1983 (T) (5034)
8.30 Food and Drink Oz Clarke and Jilly Goolden taste-test beers (T) (4541)
9.00 CHOICE Great Expectations Tony Marchant's adaptation of Charles Dickens's much-loved novel. Concludes tomorrow (1/2) (T) (31834454)
10.38 Video Nation Shorts (T) (438763)
10.40 Newsnight with Kirsty Wark (T) (853928)
11.25 Sikhs The concluding part of the documentary focuses on modern-day Sikhism (2/2) (T) (597980)
11.55 Ice Skating: The World Championship Gala From Helsinki (399560)
12.25am Weather (2191042)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Building the Perfect Beast **1.20** Open Late: Science **1.30** Women and Allegory: Gender and Sculpture **2.00** Exam Revision. GCSE Bitesize Revision — Geography 2 **4.00** Languages. Get By In German **5.00** Business and Training: *Skills for Work — Team Working* **5.45** Open University: Venice and Antwerp — Forms of Religion **6.10** The Portuguese Voyages of Discovery **6.35** Open Advice: The Three Degrees

HTV

5.30am ITV Morning News (25386)
6.00 GMTV (2971928)
9.25 Trisha (T) (3624299)
10.30 This Morning (T) (49231367)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7187251)
12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (2718305)
12.55 Shortland Street Billy meets an old friend (1877183)
1.30 Lie Detector (T) (16284909)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous talk show (T) (5142367)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2131522)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5849218)
3.15 HTV News (T) (5848589)
3.20 CITV: Maisy (5838102) **3.25** Kipper (5828725) **3.35** The Adventures of Captain Pugwash (5676183) **3.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches (5697676) **4.05** The New Scooby Doo Mysteries (7155299) **4.30** Polterguests (270)
5.00 Lie Detector (r) (T) (3676)
5.30 WEST: Garden Calendar Horticultural tips (T) (522)
5.30 WALES: House to House A retired couple's home in Llanharry, Mid Glamorgan (T) (522)
5.58 HTV Weather (999102)
6.00 HTV News (T) (763)
6.25 WALES: Party Election Broadcast By the Wales Labour Party (341676)
6.29 Crimestoppers (341676)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (265)
7.00 Wish You Were Here? Anthea Turner visits Australia, Judith Chalmers relaxes in Co Kerry, Ireland, and Nick Knowles explores the Bahamas, while Martin Roberts checks out Spain's Costa del Sol (T) (3812)
7.30 Coronation Street Leanne blurts out the truth to Gail (T) (299)
8.00 Neighbours From Hell Footage and accounts of bizarre and bitter neighbourly disputes (r) (T) (2560)
8.30 Cop Shop It's Christmas, but for staff at Gosport police station it's business as usual (5/8) (T) (8367)



Bernard Matthews, who has made a fortune from turkeys (9pm)

9.00 Britain's Richest People '99 A privileged peek into the lives of the country's most affluent entrepreneurs, revealing who they are and how they made their money (T) (7367)
10.00 Wonderful You Nancy gives Henry an ultimatum (6/7) (T) (9134)
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (868980)
11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (777299)
11.30 Fitz US version of Cracker, starring Robert Pastorelli (T) (85541)
12.30am Football Extra Football League highlights (81987)
1.30 World Football (r) (41597)
2.00 F1: Brazilian Grand Prix Full rerun of the race from São Paolo (r) (86350706)
4.35 Soundtrax (83946874)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen (74375752)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (69961)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather (9305980)
12.55 Lie Detector (2793096)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4967812)
2.10-2.40 High Road (89930183)
3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (5848589)
5.30 Shortland Street (522)
6.00-6.30 Central News at Six; Weather (763)
11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (777299)
4.35am Central Jobfinder '99 (6155810)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (9569394)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15pm Westcountry News (7187251)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (9320299)
12.55-1.25 Westcountry Live; Weather (2793096)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4967812)
2.10-2.40 Lie Detector (89930183)
3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (5848589)
4.58-5.00 Birthday People (7097724)
5.30 Animal SOS (522)
6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live; Weather (763)
11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather (777299)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (7187251) **5.30 A Weekend's Work** (3/7) (522) **6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight** (T) (763) **7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather** (810541) **11.20 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (490638) **11.35-12.30 Prisoner: Cell Block H** (364744) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (69961)

ANGLIA

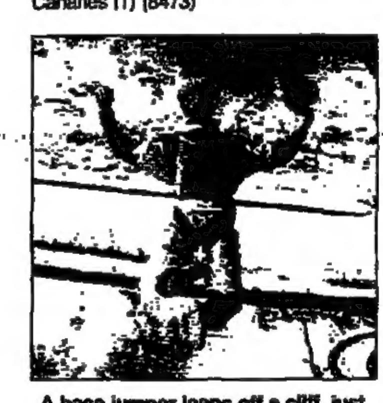
As HTV West except: **12.14pm Anglia Air Watch** (9325744) **12.15-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7187251) **5.25 Take It On** (8329544) **5.29 Anglia Air Watch** (8329544) **5.30-6.00 Anglia News Monday Extra;** Weather (T) (522) **6.00-6.30 Anglia News** (T) (763) **11.19 Anglia Air Watch** (384638) **11.20-11.30 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (777299)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (28007299) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (69967763) **9.00 The Bigger Breakfast** (92270454) **9.05 Saved by the Bell** (T) (92027270) **9.30 Sam and Max** (93328305) **10.00 CatDog** (T) (54715522) **10.20 Boy Meets World** (T) (54724270) **10.45 Moesha** (T) (19420855) **11.15 The Bigger Breakfast** (25335522) **11.30 Taste of the Times** (4/6) (r) (T) (90679657) **12.00 Sesame Street** (r) (T) (93318928) **1.00pm Planed Plant** (T) (69937522) **1.30 Classic Cars** (6/8) (T) (93398164) **2.00 Trading Up** (1/6) (T) (41726928) **2.30 To the Ends of the Earth** (T) (32542305) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (99350676) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (99339183) **4.30 The Montel Williams Show** (T) (99335367) **5.00 Planed Plant** (4170098 0) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (99359947) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (49883367) **6.10 Heno** (T) (39664812) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (41720744) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (99336096) **8.00 Ma 'tfan 'Ma** (T) (58004763) **8.45 Glan Clwyd** (T) (74600251) **9.00 Taro Naw** (T) (90658164) **9.30 Sgorio** (T) (30521928) **10.35 Equinox** (T) (69807270) **11.35 FILM: The Outsiders** (T) (93329367) **1.15am The Real James Goldsmith** (T) (58568416) **2.15 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.25am Alfie Atkins (9695763)
5.35 The Pink Panther (2818034)
5.55 Sesame Street (r) (5077367)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (34473)
9.00 The Bigger Breakfast (3288034)
9.05 Saved by the Bell (T) (7012251)
9.30 Sam and Max (36270)
10.00 CatDog (T) (3961928)
10.20 Boy Meets World (T) (3970676)
10.45 Moesha (T) (265763)
11.15 The Bigger Breakfast (6427676)
11.30 Taste of the Times (4/6) (r) (T) (5638)
12.00 Sesame Street (r) (T) (82152)
12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (9063812)
1.05 Caroline in the City Annie's parents separate (97338183)
1.35 Capuchin Monkey (13017947)
1.40 By the Light of the Silvery Moon (1953) A soldier returns from the First World War and causes disruption in his sweetheart's household. Musical, starring Doris Day and Gordon MacRae. Directed by David Butler (T) (32386638)
3.30 Collectors' Lot Special edition focusing on super-sleuth memorabilia (T) (893)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (928)
4.30 Countdown (T) (7594034)
4.55 Montel Williams (T) (9349367)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (164)
6.00 Roseanne (r) (T) (305)
6.30 Hollyoaks Lucy gets a shock (T) (657)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (600980)
7.50 The A-Z of Scotland New series. An alphabet of Scottish diversity (T) (239812)
8.00 CHOICE Mystery of the Mummies A transcontinental expedition to explore possible links between Ancient Egypt and mummies found in the Canaries (T) (8473)



A base jumper leaps off a cliff, just for the thrill of it (9pm)

9.00 CHOICE Equinox First of a new series. Examination of individuals' differing perceptions of danger (T) (5909)
10.00 Ed McBain's 87th Precinct: Heatwave (TVM 1997) Two detectives trail the elusive rapist who attacked a female cop. With Dale Midkiff and Erika Eleniak. Directed by Doug Barr (T) (689676)
11.45 Smack the Pony (r) (T) (415831)
12.15am And the Beat Goes On Ritchie and Cathy's honeymoon ends in tears (r) (2291400)
1.20 Inside Algeria New series exhibiting films by Algerian directors, beginning with Mute Sorrow (1/5) (2687665)
2.05 Inside Algeria Chronicling a bird-hunter's journey from Tangiers to Tlemcen (2/5) (7537232)
2.35 Dispatches (r) (T) (4012752)
3.00 Who Leads Scotland? Debate on the country's political future (r) (T) (3667416)
3.50 Right to Reply (r) (T) (44818481)
4.20 Playground Rules A man is terrorised by his neighbours (r) (46509139)
4.35 The Client (r) (2264690)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headlines, sport and business (5832589)
7.00 WideWorld Lavoisier, the founder of modern chemistry and the man who first isolated oxygen (r) (T) (2782305)
7.30 Milkshake! (2570763)
7.35 Muppet Babies (r) (4901676)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (8781909)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (8773980)
9.00 Was It Good For You? (r) (4645305)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (3112473)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6701657)
10.20 Sunset Beach Virginia gets ready to leave town (T) (4187831)
11.10 Leeza (r) (3859096)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8784096)
12.30pm Family Affairs Maggie returns Benji's gift (r) (T) (8986675)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Maggie confides in James (T) (2781676)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Entertainment show; 5 News Update (9336116)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (2085893)
2.30 Good Afternoon Lifestyle magazine; 5 News Update (8678763)
3.30 Storm and Sorrow (1990) Lori Singer stars as an American mountaineer whose attempts to scale a peak in the former Soviet Union are hampered by squabbles with her team-mates. Directed by Richard A. Colla (T) (2845251)
5.20 5 News (59102305)
5.25 Russell Grant's Postcards The Grindelwald ice sculptures (59101676)
5.30 100 Per Cent (6072560)
6.00 5 News; Weather Kirsty Young rounds up the day's stories (T) (6079473)
6.30 Family Affairs Pete offers a solution to Gabby's dilemma (T) (6060725)
7.00 Knight Rider Michael and KITT help truckers who have been hijacked and had their cargoes stolen (r) (2096909)
7.30 Animal Marvels A close-up look at the common garden snail (T) (6066909)
8.00 Instant Gardens The experts help a couple to overhaul their high-maintenance garden, and install a pond with a timber platform (T) (2005657)
8.30 Wildlife Police New series. Cameras follow Wildlife Liaison police officers and Special Operations Units from the RSPB and RSPCA as they fight the ever-growing problem of crimes against nature (1/6) (T) (2084164)
9.00 Deadly Sins (1995) Premiere. A deputy sheriff is assigned to investigate the disappearance of 11 pupils from an all-girl Catholic school, but as he delves deeper, revelations come to light which place his life in danger. Thriller, starring David Keith, Alyssa Milano, Terry David Mulligan and Corrie Clark. Directed by Michael Robinson (T) (49122831)
10.50 Dr Fox's Chart Update (6232367)
10.55 Great Balls of Fire! (1989) Dennis Quaid stars in this exuberant rock 'n' roll biopic of the hell-raising 1950s singer and pianist Jerry Lee Lewis. With Winona Ryder and Alec Baldwin. Directed by Jim McBride (T) (20662638)
12.25am Ice Hockey: NHL Action from the NHL (80802961)
4.00 Fedex Championship Series Indycar racing (8664394)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6703139)

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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (54251) **7.30** Gimmy (73386) **8.00** Earthworm Jim (68305) **8.30** Godzilla (67676) **9.00** Pokemon (58928) **9.30** The Simpsons (65560) **10.00** Shadow Raiders (49831) **10.30** Xena Warrior Princess (21638) **11.30** Legend of the Hidden City (86725) **12.00** Tarzan: The Epic Adventures (75183) **1.00pm** Mad About You (53522) **1.30** Jeopardy (95947) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (40560) **3.00** Jenny Jones (90541) **4.00** Pokemon (6270) **4.30** Shadow Raiders (2454) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (9015) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (3947) **6.30** Friends (4299) **7.00** The Simpsons (7724) **7.30** The Simpsons (3193) **8.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (10270) **9.00** First Wave (300 34) **10.00** South Park (39893) **10.30** King of the Hill (48541) **11.00** Friends (96855) **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (32812) **12.30am** Law and Order (33619) **1.30** Long Play (4569597)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) **The Devil's Advocate (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **The Rainmaker (1998)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Anastasia (1997)** **Sphere (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Mousehunt (1997)**

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Little Shop of Horrors (1986) (50833251) **7.35 Stormchaser: Revenge of the Twister (1998)** (1605893) **9.00 First Kid (1996)** (59218) **11.00 The Alamo: 13 Days to Glory (1987)** (24767367) **1.55 Stormchaser: Revenge of the Twister (1998)** (88136558) **3.30** Barry Norman's Film Night (6283) **4.00 Little Shop of Horrors (1986)** (2589) **6.00 First Kid (1996)** (50021) **8.00 Fierce Creatures (1997)** (14096) **10.00 LA Confidential (1997)** (76214218) **12.20am Everyone Says I Love You (1996)** (667690) **2.00 The Color Purple (1985)** (17473706) **4.35** Femmes Fatales. Demi Moore (1921918)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.35am UHF (1989) (64514034) **7.10** Microcosmos (80031270) **9.00 The Baby-Sitter's Club (1995)** (51876) **11.00 Miracle in the Woods (1997)** (28560) **1.00** Microcosmos (22164) **3.00 The Baby-Sitter's Club (1995)** (43928) **5.00 Friendship's Field (1996)** (44725) **7.00 Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored (1996)** (69183) **9.00 Chasing Secrets (1998)** (15725) **11.00 The Relic (1996)** (946378) **12.50am Murphy's Romance (1985)** (551110) **2.40 Steal Big, Steal Little (1996)** (466685) **4.35 Friendship's Field (1996)** (75168313)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Way Out West (1937) (7394657) **6.00 Tarzan's Desert Mystery (1943)** (7500454) **7.30 The Music Man (1962)** (3981164) **10.00 The Thief Who Came to Dinner (1973)** (7615218) **11.45 Tall Story (1960)** (5640831) **1.15am The Black Room (1935)** (10344936) **2.25 The Legend of Hell House (1973)** (9569665) **4.00 Are You With It? (1948)** (2707459)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Orlando (1992) (73571102) **7.40** London Story (7993522) **8.00 Gallivant (1996)** (39546763) **10.10 Institute Benjamenta (1995)** (3936102) **11.55** Street of Crocodiles (6666386) **12.20am London (1994)** (6210965) **2.05 Forty Guns (1957)** (5692665) **3.25 Fixed Bayonets! (1951)** (35044394) **6.00** Close

TNT

9.00pm East Side, West Side (1949) (93325725) **11.00 The Roaring Twenties (1939)** (90305305) **1.00am The 25th Hour (1967)** (30363329) **3.00 East Side, West Side (1949)** (84651951) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am FA Cup Football Special **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style **10.00** Scottish FA Cup Football **11.00** Max Power **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style **12.30pm** What a Weekend **1.00** FA Cup Football Special **3.00** Spanish Football **5.00** Ten Pin Bowling **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** What a Weekend **7.00** Live Monday Night Football **10.15** Sports Centre **10.30** You're On Sky Sports! **11.15** Football League Review **12.15am** Sports Centre **12.30** You're On Sky Sports! **1.15** Football Special **3.15** Football League Review **4.15** Sports Centre **4.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Racing News **8.00** Super League **10.00** Snow Show **10.30** Road Race of the Month **11.00** Watersports World **12.00** Live International Cricket **8.00pm** Asian Golf Show **9.00** World Motor Sport **12.00** Ten Pin Bowling **1.00am** Asian Golf Show **2.00** Total Sport **2.30** V-Max **3.00** International Bowls **5.00** Sports Centre **5.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am Super League **2.00pm** Snooker **5.00** Football League Review **6.00** Rebel Sports **6.30** V-Max **7.00** Fien TV **8.00** International Bowls **10.00** Wonderful World of Golf **11.00** Golden Age of Motor Racing A to Z of Motor Sport **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Snowboard **8.30** Curling **10.00** Football **11.00** NASCAR **12.00** Tennis **1.30pm** Diving **3.00** Alpine Skiing **4.00** Biathlon **5.00** Trial **6.00** Motorcycling **7.00** Extreme Sports **8.00** Curling **10.00** Football **11.30** Boxing **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em **7.40** Last of the Summer Wine **8.20** Dad's Army **9.00** Casualty **10.05** Taggart the Movie: Fatal Inheritance **11.45** The Bill **12.45am** Between the Lines **1.40** Dad's Army **2.15** The Man from Auntie **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Wish Me Luck **7.00** How's Your Father? **7.30** The Odd Couple **8.00** Families **8.30** Mind Your Language **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** Charlie's Angels **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale **1.00** Mind Your Language **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Charlie's Angels **6.00** Emmerdale **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** *The Sweeney* **10.00** *Hale and Pace* **10.30** *The Comedians* **11.00** Men and Motors

Tilda Swinton stars in Sally Potter's visually stunning adaptation of the Virginia Woolf novel *Orlando* (FilmFour, 6pm)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** My Two Wives **6.30** Our House **7.00** Shine On, Harvey Moon **8.00** Birds of a Feather **8.30** A Kind of Living **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries **10.00** Big Sky **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** My Two Wives **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Talespin **7.00** 101 Dalmatians **7.25** Classic Toons **7.30** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** *Timon and Pumbaa* **8.25** *Classic Toons* **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa **9.00** Hercules. The TV Show **9.30** Hercules. The TV Show **10.00** Boy Meets World **10.30** Boy Meets World **11.00** Smart Guy **11.30** Smart Guy **12.00** Disney on Demand **12.30pm** Disney in Demand **1.00** Disney in Demand **1.30** Amazing Animals **1.55** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.10** Bite Size **2.20** Bear in the Big Blue House **2.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules. The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: Kid in King Arthur's Court (1995)** **8.30** Honey I Shrunk the Kids. The TV Show **9.10** *Dinosaurs* **10.00** *Home Improvement* **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **11.50** Classic Toons **12.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spiderman **7.20** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Dennis and Gnasher **8.00** Hero Turtles: Next Mutation **8.25** Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** *Casper* **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** Eek! Stravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.20** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles: Next Mutation **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Eek!Stravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Extreme Ghostbusters **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Hey Arnold! **8.30** Doug **9.00** CBBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear etc **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Franklin **2.00** Paddington Bear etc **2.30** CBBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Angry Beavers **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina **6.30** Alex Mack **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **7.30** City Guys **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempest **9.50** On the Make **10.00** Echo Point **10.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** *Sweet Valley High* **11.30** *Ready or Not* **12.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30pm** Weird Science **1.00** On a Mission **1.30** Tempest **2.20** On the Make **2.30** Hollyoaks **3.00** Ready or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** Weird Science **5.00** In the House **5.30** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **6.00** Sweet Valley High **6.30** Movies, Games and Videos **7.00** USA High **7.30** Hang Time

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Cops **9.30** Late Lounge **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: Desperate Hours (1990)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00 FILM: Buford's Beach Bunnies (1992)** **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Caroline in the City **8.00** Mad About You **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line is it Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** Spin City **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00am** Garry Shandling's Show **1.30** Nurses **2.00** Almost Perfect **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Mork and Mindy **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00** Twilight Zone **12.30pm** Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Cybernet **6.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **7.00** Six Million Dollar Man **8.00** The Cape **9.00** Babylon 5 **10.00 FILM: 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea** **11.40** Sci-Focus Special **12.00** VR5 **1.00am FILM: Empire of the Ants (1997)** **2.45** Sci-Focus Special **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Simply Painting **6.30** Instant Gardens **7.00** Potted History **7.30** The Restoration Game **8.00** Australia's Strangest Home Improvements **8.30** The Close Guide **9.00** The Joy of Painting **9.30** *Grow for It* **10.00** *Instant Gardens* **10.30** Antiques Trail **11.00** Hooked on Fishing **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Total Fishing **12.00** These Four Walls **12.30pm** Our House Down Under **1.00** The Furniture Guys **1.30** Home Savvy **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Two's Country: Eastern Europe

DISCOVERY

4.00pm *Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures* **4.30** The Diceman **5.00** Best of British **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Untamed Amazonia **7.30** Flightline **8.00** Beyond the Truth **9.00** The Quest **9.30** Creatures Fantastic **10.00** UFO and Close Encounters **11.00** Area 51: The Real Story **12.00** Nazis: The Occult Conspiracy **2.00am** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00am Hollywood Safari **1.00pm** *Cousins Beneath the Skin* **2.00** *Just Hanging On* **3.00** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **4.30** Wild at Heart **5.00** Wildlife Rescue **6.00** Pet Rescue **7.00** Wildlife SOS **7.30** Wildlife SOS **8.00** Animal Doctor **9.00** Emergency Vets **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Emergency Vets **10.30** Emergency Vets **11.00** Emergency Vets **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm *The Pelican of Ramzan the Red* **7.30** Encounters with Whales **8.30** Antarctic Challenge **9.00** Living Science: Man Versus Microbes **10.00** Lost Worlds **11.00** Extreme Earth: Vanuatu Volcano **12.00** On the Edge: The Most Dangerous Jump in the World **12.30am** On the Edge: Ice Climb

HISTORY

4.00pm Secrets of War: Cold War — The Strangelove Factor **5.00** Project Cancelled Tupelov TU-144 **6.00** The Enduring Mystery of Stonehenge **6.55** Photos for the Future **7.00** Ayatollah Khomeini

CARLTON FOOD

8.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** The Restaurant Show **10.30** So You Think You Can't Cook **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** Ideal *Home Cooks* **12.00** *Food Network Daily* **12.30pm** Nordic Nosh **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Tessa's Tastebuds **2.00** Lunch with Ed Baines **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Frances Bissell's West Country Kitchen **3.30** Ideal Home Cooks **4.00** Grape Expectations **4.30** Gordon Ramsay's Passion for Flavour **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.30** *Animal Rescue* **7.00** *Professor Bubble* **7.30** Polka Dot Shorts **7.35** Bug Alert **7.40** Johnson and Friends **7.50** Babaloos **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** My Zoo **8.30** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** Home and Away **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** *Special Babies* **3.00** Living Room **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Home and Away **5.10** Through the Keyhole **5.40** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00 FILM: Her Costly Affair (TVM 1996)** **11.00** Sextasy! **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Amar Kathayen **5.30** Sa Re Ga Na **6.00** Your Zindagi **6.30** Geet Gata Chal **7.00** Faith **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Ru-Ba-Ru **8.30** Tara 2 **9.00** Jaan **9.30** Banegi Apni Baat **10.00** Karb **11.00** Jhat Pat Khana **11.30** Sharjah Cup 1999: England v Pakistan **3.00pm** Ikke Pe Ikka **3.30** Sharjah *Cup 1999: England v Pakistan* **7.30** Filmi Baatein **8.00** News **8.30** Mausam **9.00** Sa Re Ga Ma **10.00** Talking To **10.30** Up Beat **11.00** Shapath **11.30** Blunt 2 **12.00** News **12.30am** Aap Ki Adalat **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Parvarish **2.00 FILM: Bengali Movie** **4.30** Revathi



WAR CRY 49
Roger Bootle on paying for defence

BUSINESS

LEGACY 50
Tiny Rowland's memory lives on in Zimbabwe



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft — MONDAY APRIL 12 1999

Telecom Italia seeks rescuer after defence farce

By Carl Mortished
International Business Editor

TELECOM ITALIA is in search of a white knight following the total collapse of its defence strategy over the weekend.

Italy's biggest takoever battle descended into farce when the former state telephone monopoly failed to round up enough investors to consider its plans to fend off a $65 billion (£40 billion) bid from Olivetti.

Speculation was mounting over the weekend that other European telephone utilities, such as BT or Cable & Wireless, might enter the fray with a bid or a strategic alliance to trump Olivetti's €11.50 per share offer, widely viewed as undervaluing the company. BT previously denied it was interested but the sudden reversal in Telecom's fortunes may entice the British company. SBC Communications, the US company is also mooted as a partner.

Only 22 per cent of investors registered their presence at an extraordinary meeting in Turin on Saturday, well short of the 33 per cent needed to table a vote on the defence strategy of Franco Bernabe, Telecom's managing director.

Embarrassment at the no-shows was compounded by earlier indications on Friday from Telecom Italia that it had secured the necessary quorum. Sources close to the company were yesterday pointing fingers at the government, which owns 3.5 per cent of Telecom and is widely viewed in the Italian media as supporting the Olivetti camp. "They did not even register their stake," said one source close to the company.

Telecom Italia said it would consider the Olivetti bid when the offer document became available, expected in two weeks after it is reviewed by the stock market regulator, Consob.

The company also said it "will evaluate any proposals which the market might present and mandated the chief executive officer to carry out any analysis in this regard".

Advisers to the company confirmed that Telecom Italia was throwing the door open to interested third-party bidders. One banking source indicated: "The right message to the market is that this is an important telecoms company with attractive assets. A little local difficulty could prompt others to come forward."

The government will play a key role in Telecom's future as it retains a golden share. Massimo D'Alena, the Prime Minister, previously hinted that a foreign bidder would not be welcome.

Telecom Italia is not ruling out calling a further meeting to consider the third pillar of its strategy, the buyout of the outstanding shares in TIM, its mobile phone associate. However, the failure to secure a quorum on proposals to enfranchise savings shares and a share buy-back make a further meeting unlikely.

Markets get jitters after Compaq blow

By Alasdair Murray

INTERNATIONAL markets are braced for a nervous start to the week after a surprise profit warning from Compaq, the world's biggest personal computer manufacturer, raised a large question mark over the health of the US technology sector.

In an after-hours trading statement on Friday, Compaq said first-quarter profits were likely to total only $9.4 billion, about half the level Wall Street analysts had been expecting.

The news sparked a rapid markdown in technology stocks, a sell-off that is expected to gather speed today.

Although the Dow Jones industrial average recorded solid gains of 3.5 per cent last week, finally establishing itself firmly above the 10,000 level, analysts are concerned that share price rises in the index have been unevenly spread.

A flood of first quarter-earnings is due in the next couple of weeks, and further disappointment could end the rally that has driven the Dow more than 10 per cent higher this year.

European computer companies such as Olivetti, Siemens and STMicro could also be caught in the firing line, while European markets have been heavily reliant on the lead given by a buoyant Dow this year.

Compaq shares fell sharply in after-hours trading on Friday, sliding to $26.25 from the official closing price of $30.94. Rival computer hardware manufacturer Dell lost 8 per cent while Intel, the computer chip-marker, slid 3.5 per cent. Microsoft, the software manufacturer, declined by a more modest 1.5 per cent. However, shares in IBM and Hewlett-Packard, Compaq's two biggest rivals, were not traded on Friday and are expected to suffer heavy losses today.

Compaq blamed the profits warning on an "unfavourable sales mix", with lower sales of high-margin items such as computer servers and increasing competition hitting prices.

Analysts believe the problems stem from an unexpected slowdown in the business sector computer market, which has left Compaq with high stock levels.

Compaq is not the only computer manufacturer to have disappointed in the past few weeks. 3Com slumped 10 per cent last month after giving warning of lower profits, while in February Advanced Micro Devices, which makes clones of Intel devices, also issued a profit warning.

However, not all analysts believe that Compaq's problems are shared by the sector and point out that the shares are already well below the January high of $50 because of concerns about its performance. Hugh Johnson, chief investment officer of First Albany Corp, said: "You've seen solid underperformance from Compaq on many days when IBM, Dell, Cisco and Microsoft have been strong. The initial reaction will be negative, but I think the market will sort out the group."

YVEGENY KONDAKOV/MOSCOOP



George Walker in Moscow, where he will run a Western-style lottery alongside his system for betting on British horses

Walker wins Russian lottery

From Jon Ashworth
in Moscow

GEORGE WALKER, the former Brent Walker chairman and one-time champion boxer, has won the licence to set up and run the first Western-style lottery in the former Soviet Union.

TeleTot, offering weekly jackpots of $1.5 million, will go live in Moscow later this year, backed by all-British technology. Ticket numbers will be relayed via satellites to a computer centre in Bristol, using a system which currently allows Russian punters to bet on British horses and greyhounds. Money raised will be ploughed into good causes in and around Moscow.

The deal is a coup for Mr Walker, 70 this week, who has shrugged off his past troubles to make a slow fight back to respectability. Thrown out of Brent Walker by the banks, he was declared bankrupt and pursued by the Serious Fraud Office amid allegations of theft and false accounting. Cleared of all charges, he turned his attention to Russia, first importing cigarettes and then bringing racing via satellite. He has rented a house outside Moscow and spends much of his time here, accompanied by his wife Jean.

Lotteries are not new to Russia, but this will be the first to use an online system. Camelot, which runs the UK lottery, had been interested in the Moscow licence. TeleTot will initially cover greater Moscow, with a catchment of 20 million people. It hopes to have 5,000 lottery terminals in place by the end of the year. Tickets will cost 10 roubles (about 18p).

Punters watch the Grand National live in Moscow using the same technology that will make the lottery possible. Commentary is provided by Russian presenters in a studio in East London. Mr Walker said: "We've got an operation going that's smarter and more sophisticated than the existing one in the UK and far better than the one in America."

Mr Walker is chief executive of Premier Telesports, which hopes to have 1,000 tote betting machines in Moscow by the end of the year. Premier's backers include George Soros, the billionaire Wall Street investor, and Mr Walker hopes to float Premier on Nasdaq within the next two years.

Gaming aside, Mr Walker is eager to participate in the regeneration of Moscow. He has identified a derelict horse-racing track as the potential site for a huge inner-city retail, commercial and residential complex — repeating what he did with Brent Cross in London in 1974.

United criticises Heathrow cutbacks

By Arthur Leathley
Aviation Correspondent

THE world's biggest airline has issued a blunt warning to ministers not to scale down Heathrow's role as the premier airport for international flight connections.

Executives of United Airlines voiced concern that Whitehall officials are investigating ways of reducing dependence on Heathrow for linking European passengers with the US and the Far East.

United's managers say that UK business interests will be damaged if the airport is made to cut a network serving 200 destinations worldwide.

Jon Moss, United's regulatory affairs director, said that UK airlines would suffer most from any reduction of connecting at Heathrow. He said: "It would be a bad mistake. You would minimise the role that UK carriers play in the global market. The economic impact of putting international passengers through is enormous.

"It is inconceivable that people travelling to Europe from the US would be prepared to fly to the Continent for a short flight back to the UK."

Whitehall officials have been considering shifting traffic to other British airports, particularly to Gatwick, Stansted and Luton. They have even been told by ministers to consider the possibility of promoting rival foreign airports, such as Paris, Frankfurt and Amsterdam, if Heathrow becomes dangerously congested.

The government rethink is part of a two-year review of airport capacity in South-East England before a decision, expected in 2001, on whether to build a fifth terminal at Heathrow, which is struggling to cope with 60 million passengers a year.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1689

ACROSS
1 Angry *(slang)*; covered in condensation (7,2)
6 Sprite (3)
8 Gradually decrease: a safe (5)
9 A C 20 composer Lord: sounds like *stoves* (7)
10 Occurred *(lit.)* (6)
12 Join board: develop friendship (with) (3,2)
13 Dickens's Nell, outlaw John (6)
14 Clever: shining (6)
17 Constellation, has Belt (5)
19 Used tongue on: defeated (6)
21 Sporting ground (7)
22 Painted cherubs (5)
23 See other side *(abbr.)* (1,1,1)
24 Auld Reekie (9)

DOWN
1 Concessions: soaked bread pieces (4)
2 Beg (7)
3 Damage, deface (3)
4 Take desultory interest (in) (6)
5 Old soothing medicine (9)
6 The chosen (5)
7 Open mesh (stocking) fabric (7)
11 The sweetbriar: *inelegant (anag.)* (9)
13 Gazes starwards; gives admiration *(to)* (5,2)
15 More important (7)
16 Former pupils (esp. US) (6)
18 Adult insect stage (5)
20 (Eg telescope) bowl; scupper (4)
22 The local (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1688
ACROSS: 1 Ride 3 Compiler 8 Gilt 9 Glorious 11 Revolution 14 Uproar 15 Fillip 17 Chimpanzee 20 Language 21 Haze 22 Westerns 23 Edda
DOWN: 1 Rigorous 2 Delivery 4 Oblate 5 Periodical 6 Loom 7 Risk 10 Bleak House 12 Blizzard 13 Ephemera 16 Imogen 18 Glow 19 Ends

SOLUTION TO EASTER MONDAY TIMES TWO JUMBO
ACROSS: 1 Simon 4 Paralysis 9 Disorganise 15 Architect 16 Voicing 17 Appellate 18 Grandmother's footsteps 19 Vivid 20 Thimble 22 Tempests 23 Free French 26 Resignation 28 Keeping 29 Frame-up 30 Dorsal 32 Perfidious 34 Treatment 37 Cold-shouldering 39 Achievement 41 Replacement 42 Freedom fighters 43 Breathing 45 Auriferous 47 Quotes 50 Athlete 52 Ageless 53 Pessimistic 55 Dutch treat 57 Poniards 59 Anglian 61 Photo 62 Be all fingers and thumbs 64 Guatemala 65 Chicory 66 Tailoring 67 Shop steward 68 Nestlings 69 Built

DOWN: 1 Slaughtered 2 Mechanics 3 Naiad 4 Phenomenal 5 Ratchet 6 Liveryman 7 Stiff-necked 8 Slip of the tongue 9 Digest 10 Stage fright 11 Riposte 12 All over bar the shouting 13 In advance 14 Emend 21 Beggars can't be choosers 24 Hepatitis 25 First-aider 27 Ice floe 29 Frenetic 31 Relapse 33 Free trader 35 Everest 36 Cohesive 37 Cardboard 38 Informed opinion 40 Humbugs 44 Guadalajara 46 Fishing rods 48 Second sight 49 Hit-and-miss 51 Hot potato 53 Portrayal 54 Triumviri 56 Rib cage 58 Spartan 60 Placid 61 Pages 63 H-bomb



Sainsbury to cut 350 jobs at head office

By Saeed Shah



Adriano: under pressure

J SAINSBURY, the supermarket group that has been losing market share to competitors, is to announce the redundancy of 650 managerial staff this week as part of a drastic cost-cutting programme.

Some 350 jobs will go at Sainsbury's London headquarters — a tenth of head-office staff — including ten divisional managers and 70 other senior executives. The headquarters of Savacentre, the group's hypermarket-style stores, will see 300 further job losses.

Sainsbury, which has lost the top food retailing spot to Tesco, is due to make a fourth-quarter trading statement on Friday. The supermarket has disappointed the City with an expensive advertising campaign, "Value to Shout About", featuring John Cleese, which failed to boost sales after its launch last autumn.

Sales at Tesco rose by 4 per cent in the 19 weeks to the end of January, against Sainsbury's poor 1.2 per cent rise.

Tesco is expected to emphasise its lead when it issues full-year results tomorrow and announces 10,000 new jobs to keep pace with rapid expansion. Friday's statement by Sainsbury is unlikely to cheer investors after bruising from Asda and Tesco price-cutting.

Under pressure to win back market share, Dino Adriano, Sainsbury's chief executive, has decided to attack costs and bureaucracy and to project a new image, to be unveiled with a new logo and a fresh campaign in early summer.

The recent departures of Rosemary Thorne, Sainsbury's finance director, and David Clapham, director of special business and services, are thought to be part of the new strategy. Analysts said that Sainsbury wants a heavyweight finance director, especially to handle the City.

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NPC chief takes to the road

BOB MACKENZIE is quitting as chief executive of National Parking Corporation, the UK car parks and Green Flag business owned by Cendant, the US consumer services group (Saeed Shah writes).

Mr MacKenzie was behind Cendant's failed £450 million bid for the Royal Automobile Club's motoring and breakdown division, which was to be merged with Green Flag, its own breakdown service provider. The deal was blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in February.

Cendant bought NPC, which owns 500 NCP car parks and Green Flag, last March for £801 million and followed this up with the RAC bid.

Mr MacKenzie, who is to be replaced by Ken Gaskell, chief operating officer, said he wanted to go on to other businesses that needed restructuring.

Underpaid at £1,000 a day

By Saeed Shah

PITY the poor non-executive director, who is overworked and underpaid at £1,000 a day, according to a report by KPMG, the accountancy firm.

A KPMG survey discovered that non-executive directors now face greater pressures and more demands on their time than at the time of the last such survey by the firm four years ago.

"The job is no longer attending a meeting once a month," Gerry Acher, senior partner at KPMG's London office, said. "It is not the gravy train it once was."

The survey, of 130 non-executive directors, found that they were paid about £15,000 a year for a FTSE 350 company directorship and about £30,000 for a FTSE 100 firm. The workload amounts to about 26 days a year, including preparation time for meetings.

Mr Acher said that there are new pressures in the job stemming from corporate governance issues and a greater requirement to get immersed in the business.

He said: "It is often a very lonely position and the risks to your reputation are immense. For the level of experience required, and bearing in mind that you have to meet your own office expenses, I believe the pay is inadequate."

It is odd, then, that the survey found that these undervalued stalwarts were not doing a terribly good job, especially those outside the FTSE 100.

Non-executive directors are described in the report as "passive receivers of poor-quality information". It adds that "a significant minority do not follow accepted procedures and three-quarters receive no assessment themselves".

Mr Acher said: "Their knowledge of e-commerce and how it affects their business is often woefully inadequate, even within the FTSE 100. They must stop being passive receptors and seek out the information they need to do their job well."

Are they deserving, then, of a pay rise? Mr Acher said that it is precisely because of these shortcomings that the job needs to be better compensated, in order to attract candidates of superior quality.

At present, he said, many potential candidates prefer to work as consultants, which carries no risk to their reputation and brings pay of £1,200 to £1,700 a day.

Mr Acher recommends a rise of a third in directors' compensation, possibly paid in shares, over the next couple of years.